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Vol. 17  
2007-2008

Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Charlotte



Established Jan. 12, 1972  
by Pope Paul VI

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Father Catoir asks  
for prayers for lapsed  
Catholics; the Dodds' ways  
to talk to kids about death

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OCTOBER 26, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 1

## Disputing the data

*Pro-life official critical  
of study urging  
legalization of abortion*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Across the globe abortion rates are similar whether the procedure is legal or not, said a new study, and its researchers stress that illegal abortions are a threat to "women's health and survival."

Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, was critical of the study's emphasis on the safety of legal abortion and said its "methodology was flawed."

Published in the Oct. 13 issue of a British medical journal, *The Lancet*, the study was conducted by researchers at the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit group based in New York, and the World Health Organization in Geneva.

See STUDY, page 7

## Helping build a better tomorrow



COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro stand on a balcony of a house's second floor they helped construct during a mission trip to Manta, Ecuador.

## Mission trip to Ecuador benefits all involved

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — A summer mission trip to Ecuador opened the eyes of a group of local Catholics to the needs of many.

Eleven adult and Life Teen youth parishioners from St. Paul the Apostle Church, as well as then-parochial vicar Oblate Father Paul Dechant, visited their sister parish, the Parish of the Child Jesus, in Manta, Ecuador, for nine days in July.

There, St. Paul the Apostle Church sponsors 100 schoolchildren through financial support and letters of friendship to them and their families.

"The families are so thankful for the scholarship program, without which most

See ECUADOR, page 9



PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Father Fidel Melo (left), pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, and Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar (back to camera), meet with the parish pastoral council Oct. 22.

## Constant collaboration

*Training sessions emphasize renewed  
mission of pastoral councils*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — As part of the introduction to the revised diocesan guidelines for pastoral councils, two training sessions will be offered in November at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

The training sessions will feature two nationally noted speakers in the field of pastoral councils and will be offered to

all clergy and lay members of pastoral councils.

"The role of the council is to advise the pastor on pastoral matters in dealing with the dynamics of parish life," said George Cobb, director of planning and research for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The primary work of any pastoral council should be the

See COUNCIL, page 8

## Faithful citizenship

The U.S. bishops call Catholics to "a different kind of political engagement" in a document to be voted on during their fall general meeting Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore.

For more on the 37-page "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States," see the story on page 6.

### Around the Diocese

*Library dedicated for  
parishioner; Holy Angels grant*

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### Culture Watch

*Books with parenting ideas;  
effective pro-life ads*

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### Flames of fury

*Church destroyed in  
California wildfires*

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## TIMELESS INSPIRATION



CNS PHOTO BY ZITA FLETCHER

A statue of Mary with the baby Jesus under the title of "La Conquistadora" is seen in September in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe, N.M. The statue was brought from Spain in 1625 by Spanish conquistadors and Franciscans to introduce the Catholic faith to the New World.

## New Mexico statue brought by conquistadors still inspires Catholics

SANTA FE, N.M. (CNS) — Little did the Spanish conquistadors and Franciscans who came to what is now New Mexico in 1625 realize that the same wooden statue of Mary they brought with them to help instill the Catholic faith would still be a symbol of love and devotion today.

Originally called the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the statue is little more than 3 feet high, made of wood and hollow in the middle — so it might fit atop a staff when displayed on horseback — but it continues to inspire the faithful as La Conquistadora.

Her history is interwoven with the Catholic faith in Santa Fe, particularly among the Spanish settlers' descendants who have lived in the area for generations.

Every year, pilgrims carry the statue in a procession from the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, where it resides, to Rosario Chapel several blocks away for "Fiesta de Santa Fe."

At the end of the festivities, which include a Mass, it is returned in a procession to the cathedral.

The chapel was built on the spot where Don Diego de Vargas prayed to an image of La Conquistadora that Santa Fe be peacefully resettled following the 1680 Pueblo Indian revolt against the Spanish settlers.

"In 1692, de Vargas and his soldiers prayed to La Conquistadora that if they successfully resettled Santa Fe, he would honor her with vespers, Mass and a sermon," said Bob Martinez, assistant

major-domo of Rosario Chapel.

In 1712, the city of Santa Fe issued a proclamation to officially recognize the devotion and commemorate the event with a re-enactment as well as a reading of the proclamation. The chapel was built in 1807.

Martinez, born and raised a Catholic, said his life changed for the better a year after he became part of an honorary court of men called "de Vargas and his 'cuadrilla,'" which means band or team. They re-enact the return to Santa Fe of de Vargas and his company in a ceremony.

Martinez also was taken with La Conquistadora when he participated for the first time in an honor guard called "Los Caballeros de Vargas," a group that protects the statue during celebrations.

Martinez also belongs to a local confraternity whose members care for La Conquistadora; another member is Teresita Garcia, a sacristan who dresses the statue in outfits to mark special occasions.

"It is so incredible for me to play a role as sacristan in the history represented by the mother of God. My faith has grown," she said.

"We have to realize that through her grace we come to know Father, Son and Holy Spirit," said Garcia. "How can something like this not change your life?"

"What makes it so special to me is being able to participate in the same devotion to her as my ancestors did almost 400 years ago. We are very, very fortunate," Garcia said.

## Women religious form global network to combat human trafficking

ROME (CNS) — Women religious from around the world have formed a global network aimed at combating human trafficking.

More than 30 nuns from 26 nations launched the initiative called the "International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons" during a conference on human trafficking Oct. 15-19 in Rome.

The U.S. Department of State funded the conference and training seminar, which were organized by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican and the Italian Union of Major Superiors. The International Organization for Migration helped design a program for workers to assist women who are forced into prostitution flee and get off the streets.

Once upon a time, the notion of human trafficking "was a kind of global family secret," said Msgr. Pietro Parolin, Vatican undersecretary of state.

But now, he said, thanks to public

awareness campaigns, more people know about this \$12 billion business, which in 2005 was built on the forced labor of at least 12 million people.

However, he expressed hope that greater attention will express more decisive responses to the problem.

"The scourge of human trafficking is a critical (issue) for the Holy See," he said, giving the Vatican's full support for "the increasing numbers of consecrated persons engaged in this fight."

Sister Susan Maloney, of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, told participants that women religious "have committed to take on the great moral evil of human trafficking," which she said is the "great ministry of the 21st century."

Numerous anti-trafficking training programs coordinated by the Italian Union of Major Superiors, the largest conference of women religious in the world, have been held in different parts of the world since 2002.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortive Women and Men* will take place in the Asheville area Nov. 2-4. For more information, call the diocesan Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229 or e-mail [mnadol@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mnadol@charlottediocese.org).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An exploratory meeting for a *Small Christian Community* will meet at New Creation Monastery Oct. 28 at 9 a.m., followed by Mass at 11 a.m. Call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934 to register.

CHARLOTTE — A *Pro-Life Prayer Vigil* will take place through Nov. 4. It will be a 40-day/24-hour peaceful prayer vigil in front of an abortion center with pro-life participants of many denominations. Together we can all build a culture of life. For more information, e-mail Diane Hoefling at [rhoef541@aol.com](mailto:rhoef541@aol.com) or call (704) 541-3760. Also visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Nov. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parish center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary

Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, or reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213 or e-mail [kschwabent@aol.com](mailto:kschwabent@aol.com) by Nov. 9.

CHARLOTTE — "*Understanding Your Late-Life Choices*" will be presented in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Wednesdays, through Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. The topic for Oct. 31 will be "What is covered by Medicare and Medicaid." The topic for Nov. 7 will be "Physical and Mental Challenges to the Brain in Later Life." RSVP at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — Do men really grieve differently? Are there messages society sends men about grief? Larry Dawalt will explore "*The Masculine Side of Grief*" at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For more information and reservations for dinner, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431 by Nov. 12.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Call Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 for more information.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A new study series, "*Living the Questions 2.0*," will be offered at St. of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Nov. 6, 13 and 27, and Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## North American College in Rome experiences enrollment boost

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Pontifical North American College in Rome experienced an increase in its enrollment of seminarians as it welcomed a freshmen class of 52 students this year.

Now the total number of students enrolled in the U.S. seminary is 185, the most in the past 40 years, said Msgr. James F. Checchio, the college's rector.

While the upturn reflects U.S. national trends, the rector said enrollment also has been boosted because more dioceses are sending their men to Rome for preparation for the priesthood.

"There are 14 new dioceses that have men here that did not last year," including many dioceses from the Midwest and the South, he said.

The college also has "a pretty good number" — 74 priests, who are pursuing graduate degrees in Rome and living at its Casa Santa Maria, he said. "A few years ago (that number) had been down to 57."

Aside from boasting greater numbers, the college's higher quality students are also something he is proud of, Msgr. Checchio said. He said they are more committed to working hard, "making themselves holy and more learned about the teachings of the church."

"They want to make a difference in people's lives and how people see the church, the mission of the church in modern society," he said.

Meanwhile, this was the first year the college has ordained a priest from Australia.

Several Australians are living and studying at the college this year.

Because the Australian bishops do not have a national college in Rome and they liked the American college's reputation, the Australian bishops asked permission from the U.S. bishops a few years to enroll their seminarians, he said.

Fleming, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s are invited to come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversations at *Theology on Tap*. ToT will meet Tuesdays, through Nov. 13 at 6:45 p.m. for dinner and a social hour. Speakers begin at 7:45 p.m. For more info e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit [www.triadcatholics.org](http://www.triadcatholics.org) or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

HIGH POINT — Have you been away from the church for a while? Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., invites you to attend the *Hope of Seeing Everyone Again* program. This small group will meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. through Nov. 14 to get a sense of the modern-day church, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. To register and for more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7730 or Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5067.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 52 16th Avenue NW, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. With the theme "Embracing Justice Under God's Tent," the focus of this bilingual service will be on immigration issues and will feature guest speaker Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry. This event is sponsored by more than 15 area churches. Childcare will be provided, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Renew International's "Why Catholic?" program will be presented at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr., through Nov. 26. Inactive Catholics and

anyone inquiring about the Catholic faith are also encouraged to share this journey. Morning, afternoon and evening groups are available. For more information, call Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

MURPHY — *The Bereavement Support Group* of St. William Church will meet Tuesdays through Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m., in the Glenmary Center, 731 Andrews Rd. This support group will aid in the healing process of anyone who has experienced loss through death, divorce or other life-changing situations. For more information, call Heather Schmitt at (828) 837-7048.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting the first *Diocesan Black Catholic History Month Celebration*, Nov. 17, 4-7 p.m., at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This free event will feature cultural foods, networking opportunities, and informative programs. Register to Sandy Murdock at [spmurdock@charlottediocese.org](mailto:spmurdock@charlottediocese.org), or (704) 370-3376. Please provide your name, number of attendees and a telephone number.

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Julie Ostergaard, campus minister at Wake Forest University, will speak Oct. 31. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations on a variety of topics. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 28 — 2 p.m.  
Silver, golden wedding anniversaries Mass  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Nov. 3 — 5 p.m.  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler

Nov. 4 — 1:30 p.m.  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

Nov. 6 — 11 a.m.  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

## Top U.S. church officials meet pope, discuss planned visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Top officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops met privately with Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 18 for a wide-ranging discussion about the church in the United States, including the pope's planned visit to the U.S. in the spring.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., conference president, said the discussion about the trip was "just in general."

Beyond the announced papal stop in New York, Bishop Skylstad said he could not provide specifics about the trip because "the details have not been nailed down yet."

He did say, however, that he expected the trip to be brief, in keeping with Pope Benedict's practice.

Bishop Skylstad was joined at the meeting by Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, conference vice president, and

Msgr. David J. Malloy, general secretary of the conference. The conference officers usually meet twice a year with the heads of Vatican offices to discuss issues of common concern, and they meet the pope during their October trip.

The three U.S. bishops' conference officers had about 20 minutes alone with Pope Benedict, who is "always very affable and very gentle," Bishop Skylstad said.

The officers told the pope a little about the restructuring and downsizing of the U.S. bishops' conference, said Bishop Skylstad, and "about the political responsibility statement we are working on," a statement into which he said the bishops put a lot of time and energy in preparation for U.S. elections.

The Spokane bishop said the officers thanked Pope Benedict for including two U.S. archbishops among the 23 churchmen he named cardinals Oct. 17.

## The traveling church



CNS PHOTO BY ARND WIEGMANN, REUTERS

Workers stand in front of Emmaus Church, which is placed on a special transport trailer, in the village of Heuersdorf, Germany, Oct. 23. The church, built in 1297, will be carried 7.5 miles to the neighboring town of Borna to make way for the expansion of an opencast lignite mine.

## World's religious leaders explore differences, common hope for peace

NAPLES, Italy (CNS) — When 300 religious leaders gathered for a three-day meeting along the Naples' seashore, they focused on a common hope for peace while exploring some of their differences.

At the Oct. 21-23 interreligious dialogue for peace, sponsored by the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community, they presented their own teachings, asked what the others taught and offered each other clarifications.

At an Oct. 22 discussion about sacred Scriptures, Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican official in charge of dialogue with other Christians and with the world's Jewish communities, said he thought Muslims approached their sacred book, the Quran, differently from how Christians and Jews approached the Bible.

Christians and Jews, he said, believe the Bible was divinely inspired but written

by humans and must be interpreted.

"Isn't the Quran considered not to be inspired but to have been dictated by God?" he asked.

Mohammad Sammak, secretary-general of the Lebanese Committee for Muslim-Christian Dialogue, told Cardinal Kasper, "We do not believe the Quran was dictated, but that it was revealed to the prophet Mohammed and was written down."

He said Muslims believe the Quran "is sacred, holy, unchanging and absolute, but understanding it is a human act and, like all human acts, the understanding can be wrong."

Sammak said problems occur "when some Muslims do not differentiate between the holy text and the unholy interpretation of the text. This leads to problems within Islam itself."



## Holy Angels receives grant for horticulture therapy program

BELMONT — Holy Angels in Belmont recently received a mini-grant to help build raised garden beds, which will be accessible by those with handicaps.

Lynne Reyburn, director of donor relations for Holy Angels, accepted the \$500 check from Truliant Federal Credit Union at its McAdenville office Sept. 6.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1956, Holy Angels is a nonprofit organization that provides residential services and programs to children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities.

Truliant is a nonprofit financial institution that provides affordable financial services to its member-owners.

The Truliant Community Mini-Grant Program was created to assist nonprofit agencies with overhead expenses.

More than 60 community and faith-based agencies applied for grants; Holy Angels was one of 17 local agencies to receive an award.

The mini-grant will help fund the construction of two raised garden beds for Holy Angels' horticulture therapy program.

The program provides learning opportunities and sensory experiences for participating Holy Angels residents. The raised beds with attached trellis will be built just outside the Holy Angels greenhouse. Residents will assist with growing summer and fall fruits and vegetables.

"The new beds will offer greater possibilities for the residents to participate in the growing process," said Gaye Dimmick, Holy Angels' creative arts and horticulture therapist.

"By being outdoors, the residents will have the opportunity to use different types of gardening tools for weeding and cultivating the soil. Because these beds will be elevated, the residents will be better able to reach the plants to water and care for them," said Dimmick.



COURTESY PHOTO

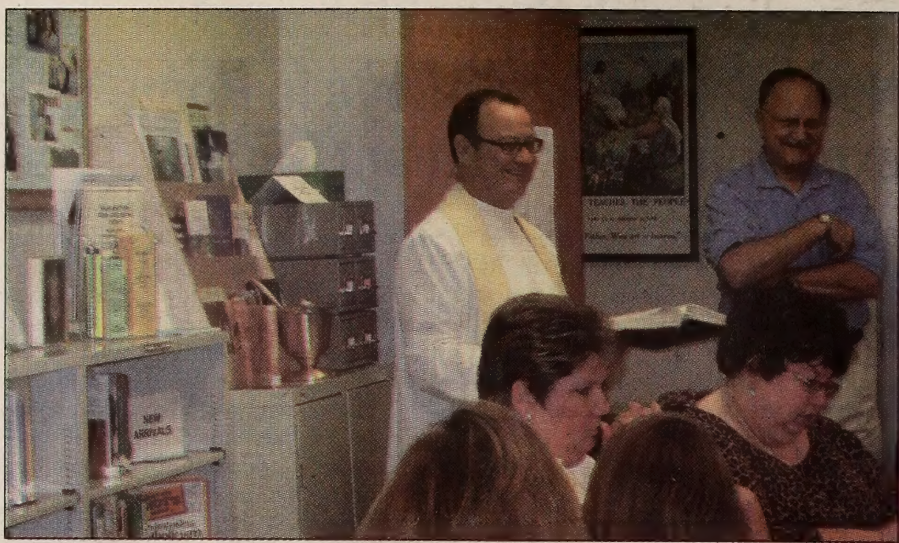
Marjorie Rorie (left), community services director for Truliant Federal Credit Union; and Tammy Kane of Truliant's McAdenville office; present a \$500 mini-grant to Lynne Reyburn, Holy Angels's director of donor relations, outside the Truliant McAdenville office Sept. 6.

## From Mooresville to Maryland



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar of St. Therese Church in Mooresville; Jesuit Father James Keogh, then-parochial vicar; and Jesuit Father Vincent Curtin, pastor, are pictured during the farewell reception for Father Keogh in the parish hall Oct. 14. Father Keogh, who is now serving at St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Church in Woodstock, Md., celebrated Mass Oct. 14 before being joined by clergy and parishioners at his farewell reception. During his 15 years in Mooresville, Father Keogh worked in hospital and homebound ministries.



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, dedicates the parish library in memory of parishioner Claire Cole Sept. 23. Cole's husband, Howard, is also pictured (standing at right).

## Parish library dedicated in memory of faithful parishioner

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, recently dedicated the parish library to the memory of a parishioner who helped make it a reality.

The library was dedicated Sept. 23 to the memory of Claire Cole, who passed away in March 2007 after a long illness.

Parishioners and members of Cole's family attended the dedication in recognition of her fortitude and leadership.

When Msgr. McSweeney envisioned a parish library, it was Cole who helped bring it to fruition.

Cole served as chair of the parish library committee. She gathered together a group of retired parishioners interested in library science to order items and

materials for the library.

The group organized a book dedication program and solicited books from parishioners to help stock the library.

"When we have doubts or questions, we ask, 'What would Claire do?'" said Pat White, parish coordinator of volunteers and communications. "She is sorely missed."

The parish library has become a thriving part of parish life, according to White. More than 4,000 books and media items are available and 2,500 or more have been circulated. The children's section is especially popular.

"The library has become an important part of the ministry of the Word and faith formation," said White.



**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

*Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The*

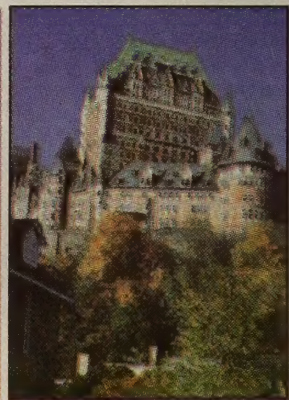
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## YOUTHS IN ACTION

## Traveling with the pack



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Cub Scout Pack 244 of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro are pictured during the troop's second annual Tour de Greensboro Oct. 14. The 39 Scouts and their families rode the 8-mile trail along the Bicentennial Greenway to Bur-Mill Park.

During the event, Scott Knox, pack Cub master, welcomed 20 new Scouts to the pack.

The Tour de Greensboro is the troop's first event of the scouting year.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

## Scouting out faith

## Office of Youth Ministry connecting with Catholic Girl Scouts

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —There are hundreds of badges a Girl Scout can earn — from computers and canoeing to patriotism and sewing. But what many Catholic Scouts may not know is that they can also earn awards for practicing their Catholic faith.

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is forming a committee in connection with Catholic Girl Scouts in the Diocese of Charlotte to let them know there are religious recognition awards available.

"We want to make sure every Catholic Girl Scout knows that we are a resource for them," said Peg Ruble, assistant director for diocesan youth ministry.

The Office of Youth Ministry committee's first major task is to find Catholic Scouts. There are only a few troops based at Catholic churches in the Diocese of Charlotte, but local leaders believe there may be many Catholic Scouts who belong to troops that meet in schools, Protestant churches or other locations.

"We're inviting people to serve on this committee, hoping to represent as many of the diocese's 10 vicariates as possible," said Terri Jarina, a committee member and parishioner at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

"We would also like to hear from any Catholic church that has a Girl Scout troop," said Ruble.

The Catholic religious recognition program is administered by the National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, under the direction of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Through this program, Scouts for all ages — from 5-year-old Daisies to adult leaders — can earn awards through exploring and becoming more involved in their Catholic faith.

The program is designed to complement the catechesis already taking place at Catholic churches and schools. Each award is geared to a specific age level and is designed to increase a Scout's knowledge of her Catholic faith.

In the past five years, 20 such religious recognition awards have been given out in the Diocese of Charlotte. With this new outreach effort, Ruble hopes that number will increase if more Catholic Scouts know the awards are available.

"These awards strengthen young women's faith and help them live out their faith and values," said Ruble.

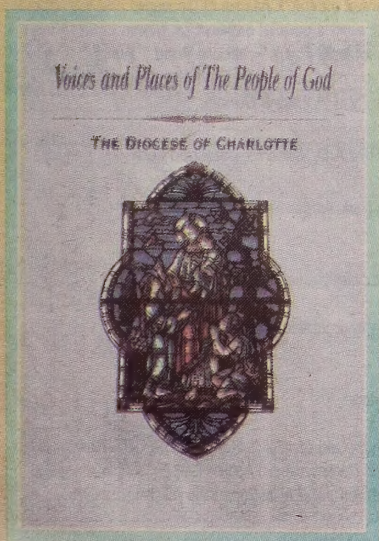
Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Girl Scout religious recognition awards and the Office of Youth Ministry committee, please contact Kathy Laskis, diocesan liaison, at (336) 476-6258 or [kathyl@northstate.net](mailto:kathyl@northstate.net).

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Girl Scout Junior Troop 30 from St. Michael Church in Gastonia are pictured May 11 with members of Knights of Columbus Council 6700 and the 272 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to be sent to U.S. troops overseas.

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# Faithful citizenship

*Bishops' document to offer new guidance on Catholics' political role*

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Rejecting a political climate based on "powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype," the U.S. bishops call Catholics to "a different kind of political engagement" in a document to be voted on during their fall general meeting Nov. 12-15 in Baltimore.

That engagement must be "shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and vulnerable," they said.

The 37-page "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States" was developed by seven committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and must be approved by two-thirds of the USCCB membership.

The bishops also are to vote on a shortened version of the text, designed for use as a parish bulletin insert.

In the longer document, the bishops admit that "Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the church's comprehensive commitment to the dignity of the human person."

"As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group," the draft document says.

"When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths," it says.

The draft is part of a series of documents that have been issued before every presidential election for more than 30 years.

But the 2007 version underwent a wider consultation at the committee level and is the first to come before the full body of bishops. In past years, the documents were approved by the Administrative Committee, made up of the executive officers of the USCCB, elected committee chairmen and elected regional representatives.

## Weighty issues

Although the draft document outlines a wide variety of policy positions taken by the bishops on domestic and international issues, it makes clear that not all issues carry equal importance.

"There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor," the document says, citing in particular abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos and "violations of human dignity such as racism, torture, genocide and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war."

The bishops warn against "two

temptations in public life (that) can distort the church's defense of human life and dignity."

"The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity," they say. "The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life is ... not just one issue among many."

But it is also wrong to misuse "these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity," the draft document says.

Although there might be "principled debate" about the best approach on issues such as health care, racism, unjust war, the death penalty and immigration, "this does not make them optional concerns or permit Catholics to dismiss or ignore church teaching on these important issues," the bishops say.

## Pro-abortion politicians

The draft document does not address a topic raised during the 2004 presidential campaign — giving Communion to Catholic politicians who support keeping abortion legal.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis already has said he would not give Communion to former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a Catholic and the leading Republican candidate for president, because of Giuliani's support for abortion.

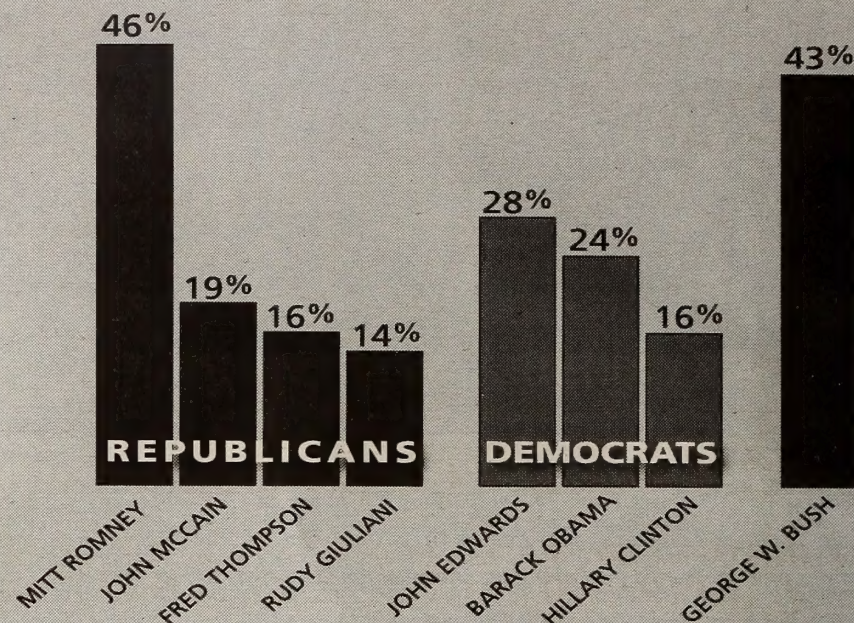
The document says that "those who knowingly, willingly and directly support public policies or legislation that undermine fundamental moral principles cooperate with evil."

"If a Catholic were to vote for a candidate who supports a policy involving intrinsic evil, such as abortion, precisely because of that position, the Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in evil," it adds.

"In some cases, if a Catholic who fully accepts fundamental principles such as the right to life were to vote for a candidate despite the candidate's opposing position but because of other proportionate reasons, their vote would be considered 'remote material cooperation' and can be permitted only if there are

## Religious Candidates?

Only small percentages of Americans said they consider the top presidential candidates to be "very religious."



Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

©2007 CNS

indeed proportionate reasons," it says.

All Catholics "have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound," the draft document says.

"Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more

just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended," it adds.

The draft will be presented to the bishops on behalf of seven committees — domestic policy, international policy, pro-life activities, communications, doctrine, education and migration.

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- \* Motorcoach tour of the Atlanta University Center — Spelman College, Morris Brown College, Morehouse College, Clark University, and the Lyke House.
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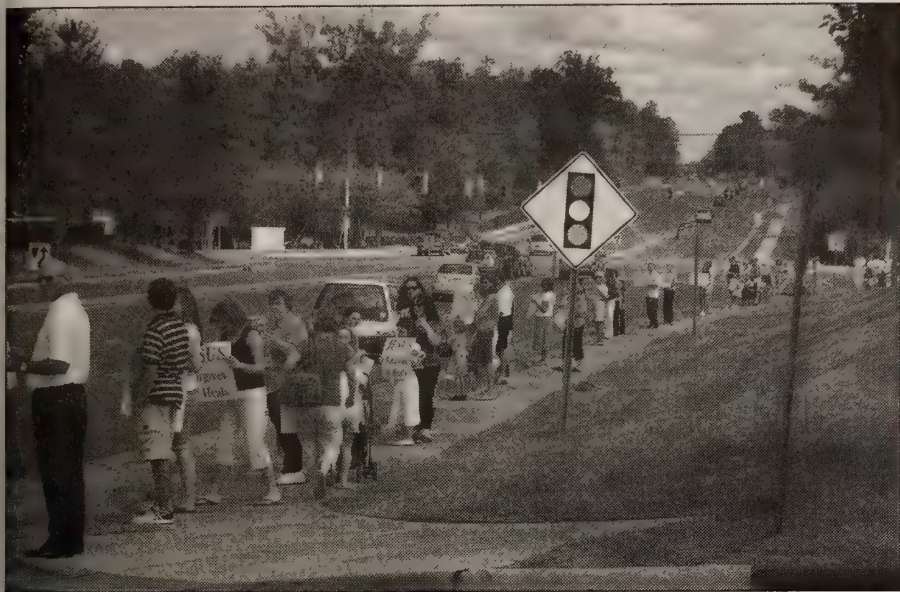
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# Lining up for life



COURTESY PHOTOS

Approximately 180 parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte take part in a Life Chain outside the church on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7. During the pro-life gathering, parishioners released balloons attached with prayers written by the parish's Life Teen youth ministry.





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# Pro-life official critical of study urging legalization of abortion

STUDY, from page 1

According to McQuade, the researchers defined "safe abortions as those that meet legal requirements in countries with permissive laws."

"But by this unusual definition, legal abortions are safe even if they kill women as well as their unborn children," she said in an Oct. 12 statement.

"The authors then say that illegal abortions are harmful — even when women experience no medical complications — because women have to violate the law. This is a closed semantic circle into which no fact about real-life women can intrude," McQuade added.

The pro-life official was also critical of an editorial in the same issue of The Lancet that said worldwide abortion rates have increased because of the United States' Mexico City policy which does not allow federal funds to go to agencies that perform and promote abortion as a family planning method in developing countries.

She said the editorial noted that the total number of abortions decreased from 1995, when she noted that the policy was not in effect, until 2003, after it was reinstated.

According to the study, "Induced Abortion: Estimated Rates and Trends Worldwide," the number of abortions worldwide has decreased from 46 million in 1995 — the last time the Guttmacher Institute conducted a similar survey — to 42 million in 2003.

The researchers note however that the previous study did not have as much data from countries where abortion was illegal as it did in the current study.

For the study the researchers used national data from countries where

"Rather than pitting women and their children against each other, we need to stand in solidarity with both and focus on improving the quality of global health care."

— Deirdre McQuade

abortion is legal. In regions where abortion is illegal, they used data from hospital admissions for abortion complications, interviews with local family planning officials and surveys of women.

The new study notes that abortions are performed in one of five pregnancies across the world and that the rate varies widely in different regions.

Although the abortion rate was high in Eastern Europe — 105 abortions per every 100 live births — the rate is dropping as better contraception becomes available, researchers said.

The study also says that 20 million abortions "considered unsafe" were performed each year and that 67,000 women worldwide die each year from abortion complications, primarily in countries where the procedure is illegal.


"Lost in the authors' ideological fog is the fact that abortion always kills; legal or illegal, it sometimes also kills women, especially when they are poor and have a terrible health care system," said McQuade, noting that promoting more abortions would not change these figures.

"Rather than pitting women and their children against each other, we need to stand in solidarity with both and focus on improving the quality of global health care," she added.

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**Wednesday, Nov. 7 – St. Mark, Huntersville – 10:30 am – 3 pm**

Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 29  
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Frank O'Rourke

**Thursday, Nov. 15 – Catholic Conference Center – 10 am – 3 pm**

Deadline for registration: Friday, Nov. 2  
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West

**Cost: \$12 - includes coffee and snacks, and full lunch**

Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**  
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# Training sessions emphasize mission of pastoral councils

COUNCIL, from page 1

building of a single community of faith," said Cobb, who provides pastoral council training in the diocese.

"That community has many faces — comprised of people with different backgrounds, charisms, experiences, ethnicities and native languages — but it is the mission of the pastor, working with the council, to bring them together as one unified body," he said.

"Members of the pastoral council are the pastor's bridge to the community, keeping the pastor informed of the concerns and events affecting his flock," said Cobb.

"The collaboration of pastor and council enables, as Pope John Paul II said in his 2001 apostolic letter 'Novo Millennio Ineunte' ('At the Beginning of the New Millennium'), the 'proclamation of Christ to reach people, mold communities and have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture,'" he said.

Cobb said the new guidelines, which soon will be promulgated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, provide clarification on the role of parish commissions within the parish and on the parish staffs' relationship with lay councils and commissions.

The new guidelines reflect the changing role of pastoral councils in the 21st century, he said.

Each facilitator of next month's training sessions has firsthand experience in working with pastoral councils, and will therefore be able to provide valuable

"Members of the pastoral council are the pastor's bridge to the community."

— George Cobb

insights to the participants, said Cobb.

Msgr. James Gaston, a priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., will facilitate the training session for priests and deacons Nov. 15. He has served in numerous parishes and special ministries, including diocesan education administration.

Msgr. Gaston oversaw and supported the writing of "New Wine, New Wineskins," the Greensburg diocesan guidelines for parish pastoral councils published in the mid-1990s. Currently, he is collaborating with Sister Brenda Hermann, member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, on a book that addresses the foundation and focus of parish pastoral councils.

Sister Hermann will lead the session for lay members of pastoral councils Nov. 17. Sister Hermann has worked with pastoral council development in parishes and dioceses since 1986.

The revised guidelines will be available in English and Spanish at the training classes, as well as on the diocesan Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html) after Nov. 17.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



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Thursday, November 15 OR

Saturday, November 17

(The program is the same each day.)

The day will begin with an overview and outline of the next liturgical cycle: Matthew (Cycle A). Prayer, noon Eucharist, lunch and shared readings are included.

Cost: \$35 - includes lunch

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- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area — plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
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# Mission to Ecuador benefits all involved

ECUADOR, from page 1

of their children would have no hope of attending school," said Kaitlyn Sanders, a student at Duke University in Durham, who made her second parish mission trip to Ecuador.

"For some of these kids, their only meal of the day is the one they receive from the soup kitchens we support," said Sanders.

Aid from St. Paul the Apostle Church helps the Parish of the Child Jesus run three local kitchens, where the mission group volunteered to help feed hundreds of people. They also assisted on the farm where the food for the kitchens is grown.

"The primary purpose of the kitchens ... is to serve nutritious meals to the children and the elderly in the community," said Deria Foster Moore, 80, who acquired the nickname "Abuela" (Grandmother) by the locals during the trip.

"The biggest culture shock, and consequently the most difficult to adjust to, was seeing firsthand the extreme poverty that plagues most areas of Ecuador," said Ashley Dischinger, a student at Elon University.

Manta is the fifth most populated city in this South American, predominantly Catholic country. The Parish of the Child Jesus consists of a church and 16 neighborhood chapels, served by three priests and volunteers.

St. Paul the Apostle Church established a "sister parish" relationship with the Parish of the Child Jesus in December 2001 to help provide financial and spiritual support.

While Manta has one of the most solid city economies in Ecuador, many of its residents live in cramped one- or two-room houses with limited electricity.

Some of the homes seen by St. Paul the Apostle Church members were water damaged and had only one or two beds for entire families.

"Families are considered lucky if they



COURTESY PHOTO

Deria Foster Moore of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro hugs a child she sponsors in Manta, Ecuador, during a summer mission trip.

have running water," said Dischinger. "It is rare to find anyone who possesses a car, motorbike or any other form of transportation. Most can barely afford to feed and clothe their families."

Prior to the trip, the parish sent funds toward the construction of three two-story houses for families in need.

"In the mornings we would visit the building sites, help with the construction and visit with the families," said Marty Kelly, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church.

One family of seven lived in a two-

bedroom bamboo shack, with the five children sleeping in one bed.

"It is a living situation that would make most Americans cringe; yet this is the unfortunate norm for many in Manta," said Dischinger.

"It was a very sobering experience to see the homes these families were living in," said Sanders.

"It also helped us to realize the difference we — the community at St. Paul's — are making by building these families new, sturdy, two-story cane houses with tin roofs," she said.

"For some of these kids, their only meal of the day is the one they receive from the soup kitchens we support."

— Kaitlyn Sanders

During last year's mission trip, Sanders and other Life Teen members from St. Paul the Apostle Church helped to build part of a local family's house. During this year's trip, Sanders was pleased to see the family had completed the work on the house.

"Words cannot describe how happy I was to see this deserving family in a wonderful new home that we were able to help them build," said Sanders.

## Faith and spirit

Dischinger noted that although the residents of Manta lived in extreme poverty, they were also some of the happiest people she had ever met.

"In the absence of material possessions, everything is a celebration to them," she said.

"I do admire their optimism and emphasis on the importance of both family and faith. From daily meals to daily Masses, they rejoice in the company of loved ones — something many Americans could learn from their example."

During Sunday Mass, "the pews brimmed over with worshippers," said Moore.

"Whether they sang or recited the responses, they did it with great enthusiasm and spirituality," she said. "After Mass, the parishioners nearly mobbed their revered priests as they crowded around them to have their water, statues and beads blessed."

The local parishioners hosted a party for the mission group and the families supported by St. Paul the Apostle Church. Local youths performed traditional Ecuadorian dancing.

"They tried to teach us to salsa," said Kelly. "We were not very successful at it, but we all had a great time trying."

"It was easy to accept these peaceful, supportive, loving and generous families as our new friends," said Moore.

In addition to helping those in need, members of the mission trip felt they, too, were helped by the experience.

"I have gained a new appreciation for everything that I am so fortunate to have, from my health to my education," said Dischinger.

"Ultimately, it is not about feeling pity for the poor or guilt for what I do have," she said. "It is about being thankful that I have the opportunity to use what I have to give real hope to those who most deserve it."

Moore is hoping to raise funds to help renovate one of the soup kitchens.

"My secondary goal ... is for everyone to experience that peaceful, happy Ecuadorian spirit, which continues to fill my 'Abuela' heart," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Manta, Ecuador, is home to numerous communities stricken with poverty.



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Authors of three books offer parenting ideas, old and new

REVIEWED BY  
VICKI LOPEZ-KALEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A good book on parenting not only gives practical ideas for raising responsible kids but helps parents to find in the author an ally, a mentor and a guide in their own development as parents.

Three new books feature unique styles of parenting that may or may not fit every reader.

"The Year & Our Children: Catholic Family Celebrations for Every Season" by Mary Reed Newland is a reissue of a 1956 publication by Sophia Institute Press, a publishing company that prides itself on "restoring man's knowledge of eternal truth."

Newland believes that parents can and should take responsibility for passing on religious values and traditions to their children at home and not rely only on the parish school or school of religion.

She offers experience, resources and motivation for parents who want to explore with their children the deep meaning of the liturgical year.

Stories of the saints, details about Advent wreaths, Lent and Easter, blessings, prayers and Scriptures are presented with enthusiasm and attention to detail. For this and for her passion, the book is quite valuable.

Writing in the mid '50s, Newland is steeped in many church traditions practiced before the liturgical renewal of the Second Vatican Council.

The publishers only occasionally insert an explanation of terms we no longer use in the liturgical year but many are left to the reader for an update such as rogation days, ember days and prayers at the foot of the altar.

The wording of her prayers for the home is of an older style, although very reverent.

While Newland models compassionate and loving parenting, her frequent mention of sin, guilt and hell in conversation with her children may make some of today's parents feel uncomfortable.

If one is willing to overlook these dated aspects of the book, it offers many timeless stories, values and fun Catholic traditions for today's families.

In "The Answer: A 'Change Your Heart' Parenting Book," author Ann Marie Hassett finds herself overwhelmed by parenthood and searches prayerfully for a way out of her confusion and lack of control of her children, her house and her family life.

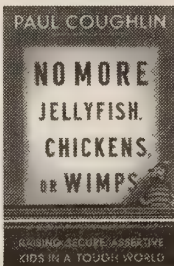
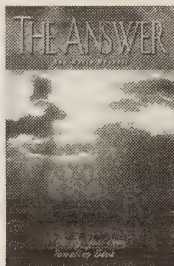
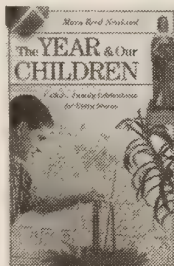
Without the benefit of self-help books or counsel, she turns to prayer and Scripture, quoting her favorite

passages often.

In the beginning of her account she is extremely hard on herself, to the point of seeking out an appropriate penance for her mistakes as a parent.

By the end of her story the reader may come to admire her sense of responsibility and her efforts to listen to her family and to her perceptions of God's guidance which give some simple, but transforming ways to make changes.

Although all parents may not take her approach, we may also find encouragement as she relates ways to slowly transform her own prayer life, her connection to her husband, and many of the problem behaviors of her children.



As stated in the preface, this is a valuable "story of how we ask God to come into our chaotic family and how he showed us a new way to love."

In "No More Jellyfish, Chickens or Wimps: Raising Secure, Assertive Kids in a Tough World," Paul Coughlin argues that many parents, in a sincere effort to help their children, give them too much and expect too little.

Offering a new understanding of the meekness of Jesus, Coughlin blames good people of faith for teaching so much about a "kind" Jesus that we forget to teach about the "courageous" Jesus.

He urges parents to take more responsibility in giving kids a strong moral backbone and the courage to stand up for what is right.

Offering practical ways to turn around this trend for our own children, Coughlin encourages us to develop more of Jesus' strength of character.

Coughlin offers examples of moral fortitude, justice, loyalty, honor, humor and fidelity in Jesus, the letters of Paul and 20th-century role models such as former prisoner of war U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Fritz Graebe, a Christian in Nazi Germany.

Tuned in to modern-day parenting, Coughlin applies courage and other virtues to the issues of TV violence, bullying, child predators and injustices that call for Christians to be proactive rather than passive in the face of unfairness of any kind.

This book offers much food for thought and discussion for mothers, fathers and church leaders who want to build strong families.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 4, 2007

Nov. 4, Thirty-first Sunday  
of Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 11:22-12:2  
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2
- 3) Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

God sees beauty  
in all things; so  
should we

BY DAN LUBY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

On a sultry Indian summer night we are walking the dog of an ailing friend. Ordinarily we enjoy these little nocturnal jaunts as our canine companion is altogether charming, and we are glad to get a little more exercise and a welcome opportunity to compare notes at the end of a busy day.

Tonight though, we are miserable. Not only are we tired and the air humid and hot, but recent plentiful rains have raised another bumper crop of mosquitoes. They fill the night with their predatory buzzing.

A neighbor watching from the air-conditioned comfort of their living room might wonder if we are afflicted with some rare and particularly violent nervous disorder.

Shuffling jerkily along the darkened paths of the neighborhood, we wave our hands crazily in the dark. Our heads

bob and weave like addled prize fighters battling ghosts.

We slap our arms and the backs of our necks and even our faces. When we land a telling blow and slap one of these micro-vampires in mid sting, we show each other our blood-flecked hands with the grim pride of the doomed.

I hate mosquitoes, I think bitterly. At best, they're an intense irritant; at worst, vectors for yellow fever, malaria, avian flu and a host of other life-threatening plagues. What was God thinking, I wonder, between slaps and jerks of the head.

In Sunday's first reading, the writer of Wisdom praises God: "You love all things that are, and loathe nothing that you have made."

I remember the mosquitoes. I remember the human aptitude for folly and cruelty, our vulnerability to ignorance and heartbreak.

In those words of praise, I glimpse the vast difference between us and God, whose infinite capacity to see beauty and goodness in every created thing is cause for life-saving hope and heart-bursting joy.

Questions:

Where — in other people or myself — is there goodness and value and beauty that I might be overlooking? What about myself or other people do I need God's help to value?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!" (Wisdom 11:26-12:1)

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 28-NOV. 3

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; Monday, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; Tuesday, Romans 8:18-25, Luke 13:18-21; Wednesday, Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; Thursday (All Saints), Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; Friday (All Souls Day), Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; Saturday (St. Martin de Porres), Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 4-10

Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 11:22-12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2, Luke 19:1-10; Monday, Romans 11:29-36, Luke 14:12-14; Tuesday, Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; Wednesday, Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33; Thursday, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; Friday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica), Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; Saturday (St. Leo), Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15.



Please pray for the  
following priests who  
died during the month  
of November:

Rev. John P. Bradley	2003
Rev. John J. Hyland	1975
Rev. Msgr. John P. Manley	1981
Rev. John S. Regan	1976
Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan	1989

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus



# Positive response

Foundation says its pro-life ads having effect on intended audience

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Unless you're watching daytime talk shows or soap operas, late-night or late-late-night television or some of the most basic cable channels, you might not have seen commercials with a pro-life message sponsored by the Vitae Caring Foundation.

The foundation buys commercial time from local stations in selected U.S. cities for just short periods of time.

But the impact of their ads on their intended audience — women who may be facing a troubled pregnancy — has been measurable in both the upsurge in calls made to local crisis pregnancy centers and the decline in the number of abortions performed in those areas.

The ads, in both English and Spanish, are generally shot with a soft focus and feature a woman who remarks about the quality of life she received and is able to pass on, or some fact about abortion designed to make the female viewer think about the fact's ramifications in her own life.

They include an 800-number for a pregnancy resource center.

Moral theologian Pia Solenni, who has been working since early 2006 with the Atlanta-based foundation on its TV campaign, said she had seen the ads before she started collaborating on them.

"I just loved the ads. They weren't shock-jock ads. They weren't graphic in-your-face type ads. They were just very engaging ads," Solenni said.

"I knew they put a lot of money into the research that generated the ads," Solenni said, adding, "I think nonprofits could be encouraged to spend their money as carefully as possible."

One ad shows a woman firefighter at the scene of a blaze, noting how her mother saved her life when she could not have had an abortion, and now she is able to save others' lives in her job.

That ad, Solenni said, "is a little like 'What a Wonderful Life'" that raises the question of "what would life have been like if you had never been born? For a firefighter, (the question is) who would have been there to save that child?"

Because of the research conducted prior to the commercials' production, these ads really resonate with the feelings these women are having.

They call the 800 number and they get connected with a pregnancy resource center," Solenni said.

"One caller said, 'I felt just like the woman in that ad,'" she said.

Thomas Grenchik, executive director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, can vouch for the ad campaign's effectiveness.

Years ago, when Grenchik was the director of the pro-life office in the Archdiocese of Washington, the Vitae Caring Foundation announced it would like to sponsor a series of ads on Washington-area TV stations.

Grenchik said pro-life officials looked at the ads that were offered and suggested two of them to use for the campaign, but the foundation "had a donor" and in the end "the donor won," and two different ads were chosen.

One, he recalled, was acceptable, but "the other was so hokey, so soap opera-y, we said that nobody would ever respond to it."

"But they had their research," Grenchik continued, "and they used that one ad. And it generated a gazillion calls."

The ad's target, he said, was African-American women who thought they might be pregnant. When it aired during the daytime soaps, "it flowed right in with the story line of the soap opera they were watching," Grenchik said.

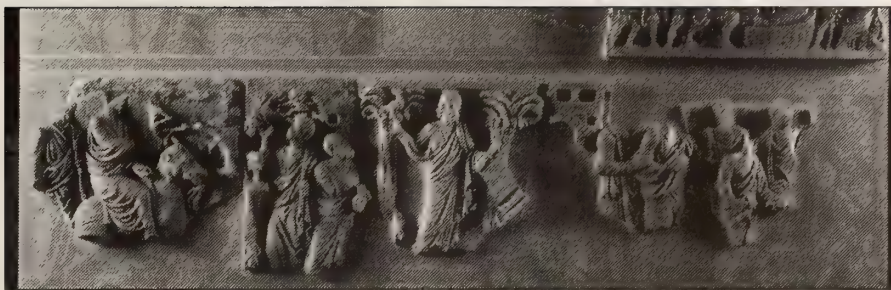
Solenni told CNS that oftentimes "someone else sees the ads and they call and get the information and they pass it on" to a pregnant woman they know.

Solenni expressed amazement at "the long staying power of the ads. People were writing down the number when they saw it — the ad — and calling six weeks after the (ad) campaign finished."

For someone to "keep track of that piece of paper" weeks later, she said, shows "a kind of stick-to-itiveness" that "anybody who's behind this product would love."

She added the "overwhelmingly positive response" to the ads "really reinforces the fact that women who have abortions feel they have no choice. Most women don't even know they have options, resources within their own communities."

"They say we have more pregnancy resource centers now than abortion clinics," said Solenni.



CNS PHOTO BY VATICAN MUSEUMS

Pieces of a sarcophagus from 370-400 A.D. are part of a Vatican Museums exhibit of 100 artworks inspired by the New Testament vision of the Apocalypse.

## Vatican Museums shows art works inspired by visions of Apocalypse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an unusual exhibit, the Vatican Museums has assembled 100 art works inspired by the New Testament vision of the Apocalypse.

While the paintings, statues and engravings depict some catastrophic scenes, the emphasis is on hope and the victory of good over evil.

In that sense, the exhibit takes a page from Pope Benedict XVI's audience talks last year, in which he said the Book of Revelation — also known as the Apocalypse — should not be read as a frightening warning of imminent destruction, but as an encouraging Christian vision.

The images unveiled at the Vatican Oct. 18 include ancient and modern interpretations of scenes from the Book of Revelation.

The text is believed to have been

written by St. John the Apostle based on visions he received on the island of Patmos, just off the coast of Ephesus. It is full of dramatic figures and images, including a woman giving birth, the book of seven seals, the lamb, the dragon and the beast.

"It's interesting that the book of the Apocalypse has continued to inspire artists through the centuries. This show includes works dating from the fourth century right up to our own time, like Henri Matisse's design for 'The Tree of Life,'" Francesco Buranelli, director of the Vatican Museums, told Catholic News Service.

Other works depict the defeat of Satan, the Last Judgment and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

The exhibit is on display until Dec. 7 in the Sistine Hall of the Vatican Museums.

## Carrell shines as 'Dan in Real Life'

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Steve Carrell is one of many things to like about "Dan in Real Life," an amusing and surprisingly non-offensive comedy.

Carrell, known for his comedic portrayal of clueless boss Michael Scott on NBC's "The Office," is in top form playing Dan Burns, a successful family advice columnist who is a still-grieving widower and father of three growing girls.

While attending the annual family reunion at his parents' house in Rhode Island with his two brothers, Clay (Robert Leo Butz) and womanizer Mitch (a tame Dane Cook) and their families, Dan visits the town bookstore where he encounters Marie (Juliette Binoche), an attractive and mysterious visitor with whom he shares an instant attraction. Soon Dan is sharing his life story and finding himself falling in love with her.

Back with his family, he reveals he's met the perfect woman, only to learn Marie is Mitch's girlfriend and staying at the house, too.

They keep their prior encounter a secret to spare Mitch's feelings. The remainder of the film involves Dan wrestling with his growing feelings for Marie, who seems torn between Mitch, with whom she has a physical attraction, and Dan, who seems to have captured her heart.

While the film has a leisurely pace and a few clichéd aspects — a couple

meets and falls in love, but is kept apart due to circumstances such as a prior romantic entanglement — it does offer genuine laughs and realistic and likeable characters, including Dan's large, loving and chaotic family.

Another plus are the few instances of objectionable elements, which is rare for most comedies these days.

The negatives include some mild innuendo as well as a farcical scene in which, to keep their budding relationship a secret, Dan and Marie are forced into the shower together — Dan is dressed, Marie is not. But the noble Dan averts his eyes.

As one character tells Dan, "Love is not a feeling. It's an ability." After years of grieving, Dan realizes he is capable of love once again, but will he be able to express it with the woman he admires?

Finding out is part of the fun.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Contributing to this article was Harry Forbes of Catholic News Service.

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## Fire safety for students



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: A Charlotte firefighter helps a student of St. Ann School explore a fire truck outside the school Oct. 10. Because October is National Fire Prevention Month and as a gesture of appreciation, St. Ann School's kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classes brought in granola, candy and power bars for the firefighters from Station 12, who brought their fire truck to the school and reviewed fire safety rules and firefighting equipment with the students.

Below: Amy Schatz and her fourth-grade class at St. Michael School in Gastonia are pictured with firefighters from the Gastonia Fire Department outside the school Oct. 24. The firefighters gave an educational presentation about fire safety and prevention, and allowed the students to tour the truck inside and out.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Students serve as stewards of the hungry



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders at St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured with some of the 788 pounds of canned goods they collected and delivered to Greensboro Urban Ministry. The student council sponsored a one-day food drive Sept. 26 to benefit the ecumenical outreach agency, which includes emergency food and shelter, housing, clothing, a food bank, and thrift store for those in need.

## Bishop McGuinness wins Wachovia Cup



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Stoller, athletic director at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, accepts the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A Wachovia Cup award on behalf of the school during half-time of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels and Miami football game at Kenan Memorial Stadium Oct. 6. Presenting the award is Charlie Adams, NCHSAA executive director, and Juan Austin, senior VP of community affairs for Wachovia Bank. The Wachovia Cup award, sponsored by Wachovia Bank and the NCHSAA, recognizes high schools that achieve the best overall interscholastic athletic performance within each of the state's four competitive classifications. Bishop McGuinness won the top spot among the 1-A schools.

Before receiving the cup, the Bishop McGuinness Villains won the 2006-2007 Northwest Conference Wachovia Cup for the second year in a row.

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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.  
**Payment:** For information, call (704) 370-3332.



IN OUR SCHOOLS

# Students enjoy arts electives in Asheville

Students learn about graphic arts, filmmaking, acting

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The next great artist filmmaker may come from Asheville Catholic School.

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders currently participating in an arts program at the school. Students chose in three semester-long electives in graphics arts, film and acting offered on play afternoons.

Next semester, new electives will be chosen by the participating students.

Steve Jamesson, who maintains the school's Web site, teaches the course in computer graphics.

In the course, titled "Applying Graphics to the Computer," Jamesson began showing ways to apply graphics computer programs with which the students are already familiar.

Students will advance to applying graphics to the Web and to printed materials.

"The Art of Walking and Talking," an introductory course to acting, is taught

by David Novak, an Asheville-area actor and storyteller.

In the course, students are learning to view the world from various points of view and to transform themselves into different characters.

They will work on improvising and pantomime, and will examine scripts and stage scenes from plays.

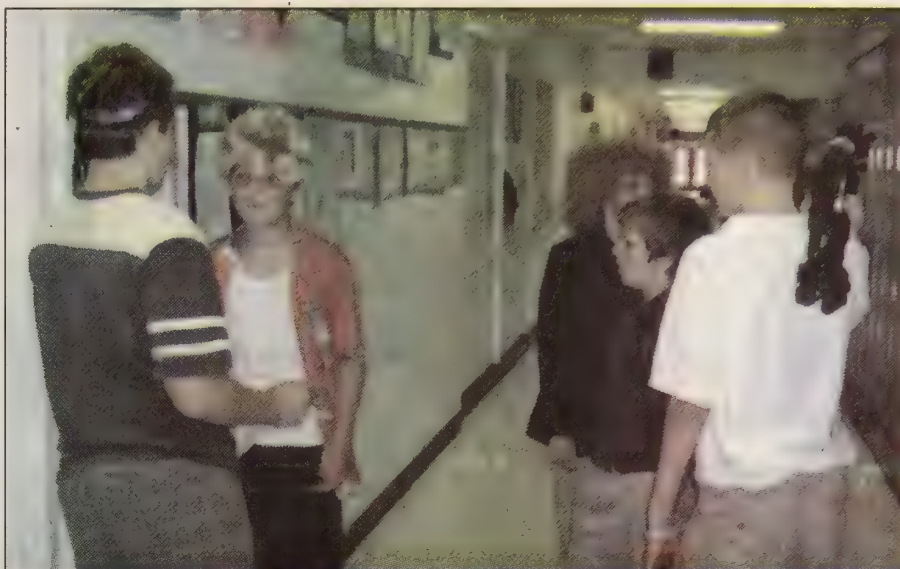
In "Capturing the World on Film," Curt Arledge of URTV, Asheville's public access channel, is teaching students about the art and science of creating a film.

Students are learning how to use film equipment, including cameras, lights, sets and editing equipment.

They will also learn how to incorporate music and graphics to add to the completed film.

The final project will be a short film of 4 to 7 minutes in length.

In order to complete this project, students will follow a progression of training, including brainstorming and writing, camera instruction, shooting and post-production instruction.



PHOTOS BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Above: Students in costumes and with camera equipment, who are taking part in an elective film class, prepare to make a short film at Asheville Catholic School.

Below: Students take part in an acting exercise using props in the school gymnasium.



## Have you visited a Catholic school lately?

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**November 4th 1:00-3:00pm**

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Pray for lapsed Catholics

*Spiritual growth dependent on strong devotion to Eucharist*

Pray for our brothers and sisters who have become fed up with the Catholic Church and left it for one reason or another.

Many have fallen away, seizing the recent scandals as justification for their action. Anger at the incompetence of those who failed to protect our children from clerical predators is understandable, but I wonder if the price they pay is worth it.

The sinfulness of others is not a very good reason for giving up the great treasure of the Eucharist.

I am especially concerned about young people. They are living in a world fraught with danger not merely from violence in the streets but also from the spiritual danger that arises in the climate of permissiveness permeating society.

They need God's protection.

We really have to pray for young people and be patient with them even when they are not patient with us.

It has been my observation that while many young people have turned away from organized religion, they have not turned away from God. They know intuitively that something doesn't come from nothing, and that the order and harmony of the universe cries out for an explanation, a Supreme Intelligence behind it.

Many of the young know that in some way the Lord is guiding them. They understand that there is an afterlife and that we will reap what we sow.

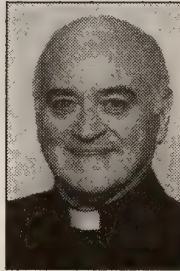
While some of them tend to neglect their spiritual lives, paying more attention to their bodies than they do to their souls, they need to be reminded of the words of Jesus: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and all other things will be added to you."

The Lord has the same goal for all Catholics. He is telling us that there is a higher level of happiness possible for those who come to him an intimate way.

Along with the spiritual consciousness that we already have of Jesus, a higher state of intellectual enlightenment and illumination is possible. This is a state of being which

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



makes the indescribable experience of spiritual exaltation a reality in this life as well as in the next.

Self-respect is the minimum requirement for arriving at this plateau. The higher spiritual gifts come to those who respect themselves enough to protect themselves from evil by striving for union with God's will.

I do not know how anyone can make real progress in attaining this level of spiritual growth without a strong devotion to the blessed Eucharist. Our participation in the life of God needs to be nourished.

There are priests all over the world offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass every day, presenting the Eucharist free of charge to anyone who is rightly disposed to receive it.

Many Christians outside the Catholic community reject the Eucharist, the priesthood and the entire sacramental system. By doing so, they have deprived themselves of the greatest gift the Lord has given to his people, namely, the holy sacrament of God's love, the blessed Eucharist.

We Catholics have received the key to unlock the greatest of all mysteries, the mystery of God's presence among us. Those who treasure this gift are rewarded with a unique kind of divine intimacy.

Pray for lapsed Catholics. They know not what they have left behind. Be grateful to God for the wonderful gift of his love.

"Rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16-18).

## From pride to humility

*Pride is a sin that corrupts, distorts reality*

St. Barnard, a doctor of the church, has a classic work on the subject of humility and pride. In it, he says the pursuit of truth leads to three directions and ends in three different places.

First, if we pursue the truth about God far enough, we will end up in contemplation and prayer.

Second, if we pursue the truth about our neighbor far enough, we end up in compassion and love.

Third, if we pursue the truth about ourselves far enough, we will end up in humility. Therefore, true prayer is humble and true humility is prayerful.

Prayer doesn't change God; it changes the person who prays. In the preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, we have these powerful words: "You have no need of our praise, yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift. Our prayer adds nothing to your greatness, but makes us grow in your grace."

In the Gospel of Luke, there is a story about the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). Both go to the temple to pray, but in reality one prays while the other does not.

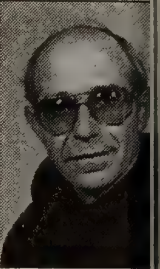
The Pharisee only prays about himself and his impressive "resume," while the tax collector admits to being a sinner.

The Pharisee seems caught in an exercise of self-adoration. He believes that the Holy Trinity is "Me, Myself and I." His prayer is a catalog of his own good merchandise. He emphasizes that he is less than God, but more than others.

The Pharisee was condemned because he played a bad game of pride. Among the seven deadly sins, pride is like the big enchilada. The other sins — anger, avarice, envy, gluttony, lust, sloth — seem like "misdemeanors" compared to the "felony" of pride.

### Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



In the parade of sins, pride leads, organizes and ends the parade. And let not forget that the original sin was a sin of pride, which generated disobedience and eventually suffering and death.

For a proud person, the world has a different spin — it spins only for him or her.

Such was true for a singer who was well-known in California. While away on a vacation with his wife and four children, he went to see a movie on a rainy day.

Walking into the theater, they saw 10 people already seated. Upon seeing the singer and his family, the audience stood and clapped. One man came over and shook the singer's hand.

"I'm just amazed that you recognize me so far away from home," said the singer. "I was never here before."

"Recognize you?" asked the man. "I haven't a clue who you are. But the theater manager said he wouldn't show the film unless six more people showed up."

That realization rained on the singer's parade of pride.

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

## Language of the culture of death

Thank you for running the photograph of Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Christopher Roux praying the rosary with the faithful at the abortion clinic in Charlotte ("Bearing witness: Bishop Jugis takes part in pro-life events in Charlotte," Oct. 19). Our good bishop bears witness and hope and light to the world.

I do ask for a clarification of language as regards the term "reproductive health clinic." This contradiction can lead to confusion, especially when the language used is that of the culture of death.

Abortions kill innocent babies and savage the dignity and hope of the mothers. The abortion facility is a place of darkness; it is not reproductive or healthy, most certainly it is not a clinic.

— Peggy Lindsley  
Charlotte

### Letters to the Editor

#### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

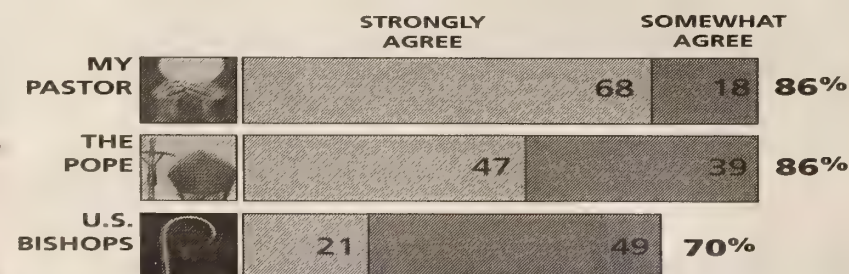
To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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### Satisfaction with Leadership

Percent of U.S. Catholics who agree that these church leaders are doing a good job.



Source: Le Moyne/Zogby Contemporary Catholic Trends Survey, March 2007

©2007 CNS



# 'Floppy died': Talking to children about death

*Discussion should be adapted to meet age-appropriate needs and thinking abilities*

"Well, how's your new pet rabbit?" a member of the extended family asked a 3-year-old at a recent gathering.

Imitating a grown-up's serious face, the preschooler paused for a moment to solemnly announce, "Floppy died," and then was off to play with her cousins.

"It's pretty clear," her mom said, "she doesn't get what death really means."

But then, who does? We don't really get it. Not this side of heaven.

New parents fumble for an answer to "Why death?" because all humans fumble with that question.

Knowing the theology (through humans sin entered the world; Christ redeemed us and death no longer reigns) doesn't mean we understand what happens. Or how it happens.

Or, in satisfying detail, what comes next.

That's not to say children, even youngsters, shouldn't consider death. Many of us at our mother's knee learned to ask of Mary, "Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Over time, those words sink in. They

take on meaning. They bring comfort.

And many of us fortunate enough to be raised in the church grew up with a day set aside for all saints (Nov. 1), and a day set aside for all souls (Nov. 2), for the departed, including our own family and friends, not yet in heaven.

How to talk to your children about death?

As with other topics (such as nutrition or safety or honesty), the discussion has to be adapted to meet age-appropriate needs and thinking abilities.

Here, for example, are two basic questions and suggested answers for younger children from Bill Dodds' "Your Grieving Child" (Our Sunday Visitor):

"Why did she have to die?"

Answer: Death is a part of life. It's the end of life on earth. Some people die when they're very young and some die when they're very old.

Sometimes a person's body just wears out after a long, long time, and sometimes a person's body gets sick or gets hurt or has something wrong with it and it just can't keep going.

We never know how long someone

## Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS

CNS COLUMNISTS



will live but when she does die, we feel very sad. It's like she went on a trip and she left us behind. We love her very much and so we miss her very much.

We wish it didn't have to be this way. We wish she could still be with us. But we know it is this way. And that's hard.

"Where is she now? What comes after death?"

Answer: Each of us — including you — is made up of a body and a soul.

We can see our bodies. We can feel them. But we can't see our souls. We can't feel them. When we die, our souls leave our bodies. Our bodies stay here and our souls go to God.

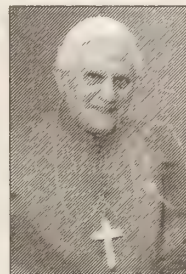
Her body is here. We can still see it. But her soul has gone. Now it can see God face to face or it's still getting ready to see God face to face.

Her soul must be pretty excited and happy. She gets to see the one who created her!

Parishioners who model Christ are most effective teachers, says pope

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Clergy, lay catechists and parishioners who model their lives according to Christ represent the most effective tools for teaching the word of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Whoever teaches the faith cannot risk appearing like a sort of clown who just performs a role for one's job," the pope said Oct. 24 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The catechist should not go through the motions, but "must be like the beloved disciple who rests his head on the heart of his Master" to hear and learn how to think, speak and act, he said.

Continuing a series of audience talks about early church theologians, Pope Benedict focused his remarks on St. Ambrose, a fourth-century bishop of Milan, Italy, and a doctor of the church.

St. Ambrose was a model catechist, he said, as his teaching was inseparable from how he prayed and lived.

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the teachers of the ancient church, we now turn to St. Ambrose of Milan.

Born into a Christian family in the middle of the fourth century, Ambrose was educated in Rome and sent as governor to Milan, where, although a catechumen, he was soon acclaimed as bishop.

He set about mastering the Scriptures, guided by the writings of Origen and the practice of "lectio divina," a form of prayerful meditation on the word of God. It was Ambrose who introduced this practice to the West, and it deeply permeated his life and preaching.

St. Augustine, who was converted in Milan and baptized by Ambrose, relates the profound impression which Ambrose's engagement with the word of God left upon him.

Ambrose, contrary to the custom of the time, did not read the Scriptures aloud, which Augustine interpreted as a sign of how deeply the inspired word had penetrated the holy bishop's mind and heart.

This image can serve as an "icon" of Ambrose as a catechist: his teaching was inseparable from his prayer and his entire life.

For Ambrose, Christ was everything — *Omnia Christus est nobis!* — and so it must be for every catechist and indeed for every one of the Lord's disciples.

# State-sanctioned killing diminishes us all

*Conference underscores church teaching on the death penalty*

In October the Connecticut Catholic Conference underscored the need for Catholics to see the moral challenge society faces when considering the use of the death penalty.

It did this by co-sponsoring with the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty a special program offered to all the parishes in Connecticut's three dioceses.

It was called "A Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty," to be held in parishes throughout the state Oct. 20 and 21.

Deacon David Reynolds, acting executive director of the conference, said the purpose of the weekend was to promote awareness of what the church teaches about the death penalty, emphasizing that the U.S. bishops have called for "common action in the Catholic community to bring about an end to the use of the death penalty in our land."

Specifically, the bishops have said that "state-sanctioned killing in our names diminishes all of us."

"Its application is deeply flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, is prone to errors and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation and where the crime was committed. We have other ways to punish criminals and protect society."

Because I have worked in my state of Connecticut for many years with both

the conference and the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty, I was interviewed on this action by a prominent Catholic radio station known by its call letters "JMJ."

Father Stephen Sidorak, the executive director of the Christian Conference of Connecticut who interviewed me, is known for his anti-death penalty position.

Anyone who has read my columns or my book, "Choosing Mercy, A Mother of Murder Victims Pleads to End the Death Penalty," knows where my family and I stand on the death penalty.

We had to deal with the loss of my son John and his wife Nancy when an 18-year-old murdered them. We've always been against the death penalty, but following this tragedy we had to look into our souls, on our knees and ask God to help us remain pro-life people.

Father Sidorak, however, asked me a question I didn't expect. It concerned the governor of Connecticut, Jodi Rell, also a mother, who lives in the same town as I do.

Rell is in a difficult position because recently horrendous murders occurred in the state, leaving a mother and two teen daughters dead. Many people are clamoring for a death sentence for the two killers involved.

So Father Sidorak asked me what I would say to my neighbor the governor,

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO

CNS COLUMNIST



who is on record as a pro-death penalty believer.

I quoted my own daughter Mary:

"Every time the state kills a person, human society moves in the direction of its lowest, most base urges. ... Our lawmakers have the capacity to help us abolish the death penalty and along with it the fantasy that it will make the pain go away."

I would also ask the governor to consider whether taking a life for a life is ever justified, even as I acknowledge how difficult it would be for her at this time politically to change her position and oppose the death penalty.

As for Catholics, we must join the Catholic campaign to end the use of the death penalty, saying, with our bishops, "We look forward to the day when our society chooses not to answer violence with violence."



# Flames of fury

*Indian reservation's church destroyed in California wildfires*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN DIEGO — A Catholic church on an Indian reservation was one of the casualties of the ongoing wildfires that have hit Southern California.

St. Bartholomew Church, a mission church on the Rincon Reservation, and several homes on the reservation were destroyed in one of the fires, according to Bo Mazzetti, a councilman for the Luiseno tribe on the reservation.

He said the loss of the church was a spiritual blow to the tribe.

"That's something we've all attended, that church. It's devastating to see that," Mazzetti said.

The St. Bartholomew Church property is owned by the Luiseno tribe, not by the Diocese of San Diego, although a deacon or priest from a nearby parish regularly ministers to reservation residents.

The same is true of two other mission churches on reservations close

to the Rincon Reservation, both of which were feared destroyed in the blazes.

A representative of Catholic Mutual, the San Diego Diocese's insurance company, said Oct. 24 no harm had come to any diocese-owned church properties.

However, some diocesan churches, such as San Rafael Church in San Diego, had been evacuated until further notice as of Oct. 23.

"Catholic Charities is providing support with hot meals, staffing and technical resources to those located at Qualcomm Stadium," a football stadium in San Diego doubling as a shelter, said Catholic Charities USA spokeswoman Shelly Boryszewicz in an Oct. 24 statement.

Priests were being recruited to go to the stadium and minister to those taking refuge there.

The Diocese of San Diego shut down its chancery building Oct. 23, but reopened



CNS PHOTO BY LUCY NICHOLSON, REUTERS

A woman watches as her neighbor's home burns on the Rincon Indian Reservation in Rincon, Calif., Oct. 23, as wildfires continued to burn across Southern California and the intense flames destroyed or threatened homes from humble forest cabins to luxury villas.

the next day, albeit at about 60 percent strength as employees were tending to fire-related situations in their homes.

The Catholic-run University of San Diego announced Oct. 23 it was canceling classes for the remainder of the week.

"Dining services staff and student volunteers have provided desperately needed food and supplies to evacuees at Qualcomm Stadium," said the university's president, Mary Long, in an Oct. 23 statement.

The university's Center for Community Service Learning was coordinating volunteer opportunities for students and staff.

The university's Web site notified parents that, while the school was not in any physical danger from the fires, it was compiling a list of homes willing to take in students on a temporary basis.

"Parents and their students are encouraged to consider their options and make the decision best for them," the Web site said. "Many USD faculty and staff have been affected by the fires and we are very understanding of these decisions."

At Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, it was business nearly as usual.

"The closest fire to the campus is over 20 miles away in Malibu, and all of the other fires are much farther away. None of the active fires pose any risk to the campus," the school's Web site said.

Should an evacuation be necessary, it added, the university has made arrangements with another college to

temporarily shelter students.

St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad, in the San Diego Diocese, opened its doors Oct. 23 as a shelter, saying it could accommodate up to 200 people.

As of Oct. 23, more than 900,000 people had been evacuated from their homes, and an estimated 1,500 houses had been lost to the flames.

Fourteen different wildfires affecting nearly 330,000 acres have hit separate parts of Southern California stretching along the coast from Val Verde to San Diego and into northernmost Mexico as well as some inland areas.

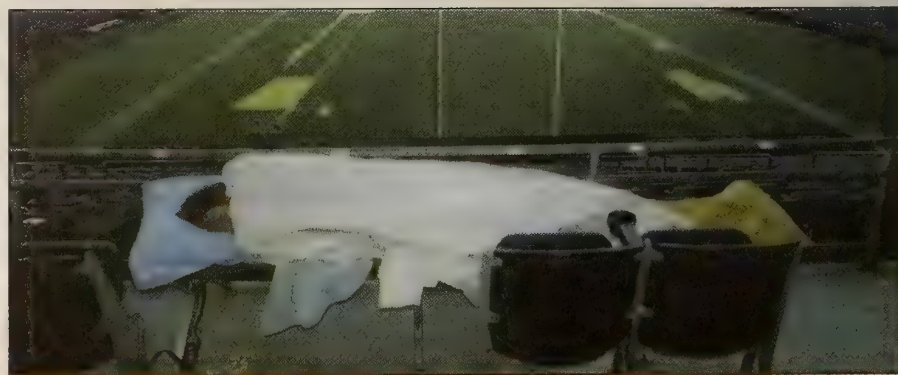
Only two fires covering a total of 979 acres had been completely contained, according to the National Interagency Fire Center's Web site.

The Santa Ana winds that had been feeding the flames were believed to have peaked Oct. 23, although dry and windy conditions were expected to continue.

Temperatures, which had reached highs in the high 80s and low 90s in many parts of the fire-stricken areas, were also expected to cool somewhat.

President George W. Bush Oct. 23 declared a state of emergency in Southern California and ordered federal officials to help local officials bring aid to the region.

The next day, he signed a major disaster declaration for Southern California. The declaration will speed federal dollars to people whose property losses aren't covered by insurance and will help local and state agencies pay for the emergency response.



CNS PHOTO BY JOSHUA LOTT, REUTERS

A woman, who was evacuated from her home in San Diego County because of raging wildfires, sleeps at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego Oct. 24.

Only 12 seats left on direct flight!  
Call today!

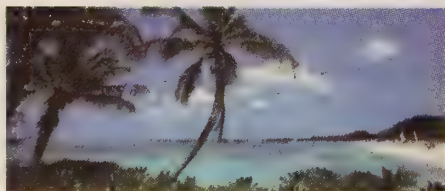
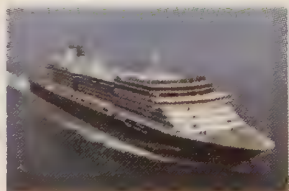
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For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — (704) 370-3332



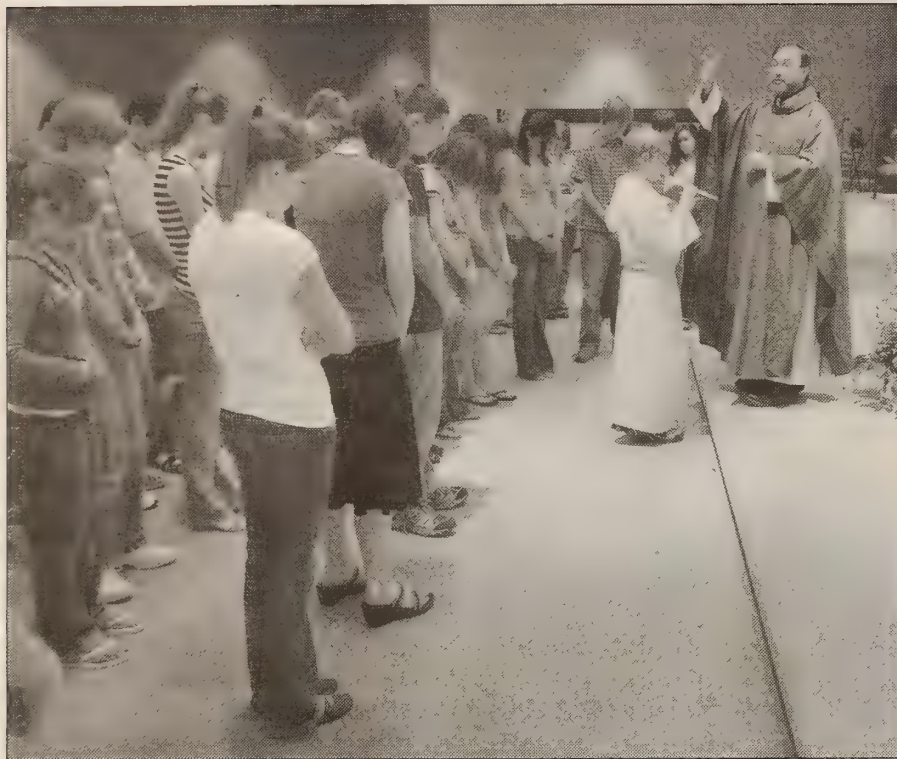




# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## BLESSINGS FOR BETTER DRIVING



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID CRENSHAW/EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC

Father Joe Townsend blesses teenage drivers at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., in October. The pastor has been blessing new drivers and their cars for about six years. After the blessing, each teen received a small cross of St. James, which is often given to travelers and pilgrims on spiritual journeys.

## Twice a year, priest blesses teenage drivers and their cars

**BROKEN ARROW, Okla. (CNS)** — About six years ago, the mother of a teenage driver asked her parish priest what he thought parents prayed about most.

The answer was their children's safety, especially when driving, and Father Joe Townsend, pastor of St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow, knew immediately he would join in those prayers.

"For me, it's good to pray for what my people are praying for. It's like I'm saying, 'I hear you,'" he said.

So that year he held a special blessing for young drivers and their cars. Now the blessing usually occurs twice a year, at the beginning of the new year and at the beginning of the school year.

The priest figures he has blessed about 250 teenagers.

"When I started doing this, I heard a loud, heartfelt thank you from the parents," he said.

The most recent blessing was Oct. 14 when Father Townsend blessed 43 new drivers at the parish.

Blessing young drivers makes a lot of sense. According for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, car crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers, accounting for 36 percent of all deaths in the 16-19 age group.

Statistics also show that teens are four times more likely than any other age

group to have an automobile accident.

The prayers and blessings are seen as ways to help lower the odds and give peace of mind to teens and parents.

Parishioner Kate Eastaway prays a lot for her twin daughters, Nikki and Claire, 16, when they are on the road, and she is doubly thankful for the pastoral help.

"This is a great idea for two reasons. First of all, we don't know where they are when they're out but God does, and he will watch over them. And second, they're not alone. Their guardian angels are with them," she said.

Jacob Osborn, 17, who has been driving for less than a year, agreed.

"Some people are not the best drivers in the world," he said. "It's good that God and the angels are there with me."

Jacob knows about potential driving dangers from firsthand experience.

He recently was forced off the road and hit a curb when another driver pulled out in front of him.

Each new driver was given a gift of a St. James cross. The cross is an ancient design of Spanish origin commonly carried by Christian pilgrims on spiritual journeys.

Father Townsend described the cross as an image of faith that the teens can take with them.

Jacob said he plans to pin his cross to the sun visor in his car.

## Traditional Anglicans ask for full communion with Catholics

**DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS)** — Parishioners from three Church of Ireland parishes have joined traditional Anglicans from 12 other countries in requesting that the Catholic Church receive them into full communion.

If approved by the Vatican, the move would allow 400,000 traditional Anglicans worldwide to be admitted into the Catholic Church.

The decision to petition for the move "seeking full, corporate, sacramental union" was made during an early October plenary meeting of the Traditional Anglican Communion, the umbrella organization for traditional Anglicans, in Portsmouth, England.

The move, requested in a letter to the Vatican, would see the entire parish communities received into the Catholic Church.

It is extremely rare for entire Anglican communities to seek corporate communion with the Catholic Church whereby every member of

the parish becomes Catholic and the parish effectively becomes part of the Catholic Church.

While the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity is the Vatican's lead office for official unity talks with the Anglican Communion, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith deals with the situation of former Anglican priests who want to become Catholic priests and with groups of former Anglicans who want to become Catholics together.

The situation of individual Anglicans wanting to become Catholics is considered a matter of conscience and not primarily an issue in the ecumenical dialogue.

Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials have expressed their hope that the Anglican Communion would find a structure able to keep Anglicans united while strengthening the faith and doctrinal heritage they share with the Roman Catholic Church in order to continue moving Roman Catholics and Anglicans toward full unity.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

**ASHEVILLE** — A *Taizé Prayer Service* is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taizé is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

**BOONE** — St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, will host Father David Valtierra of the Oratory in Rock Hill Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for "*A Day with the Psalms*." For registration and more information, contact Carol Brown (828) 264-8338 ext. 13 or [stelizabethcc@bellsouth.net](mailto:stelizabethcc@bellsouth.net).

**SPRUCE PINE** — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

**CHARLOTTE** — Consider setting aside some personal time for reflection and attend a women's retreat, "*Made in God's Image*,"

Nov. 10 in Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. Sign in begins at 8:30 a.m., the retreat begins at 9 a.m. ending with Mass at 11:30 a.m. To register, e-mail [retreat4women@gmail.com](mailto:retreat4women@gmail.com) or call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

**CHARLOTTE** — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Nov. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parish center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, or reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213 or e-mail [kschwabent@aol.com](mailto:kschwabent@aol.com) by Nov. 9.

**CHARLOTTE** — "*Understanding Your Late-Life Choices*" will be presented in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Wednesdays, through Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. The topic for Nov. 7 will be "Physical and Mental Challenges to the Brain in Later Life." The topic for Nov. 14 will be "Care giving and Care Receiving: Making the Twain Meet." There is no fee to attend, but reservations are appreciated. RSVP to the church office at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

**CHARLOTTE** — New Creation Monastery invites you to a *day of silence and solitude* in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr., Charlotte, N.C., 28206, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 344-0934.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

**BELMONT** — Jim and Michele Cowan will present a free *Concert of Praise and Worship Music* at the Basilica of Belmont Abbey

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Trade initiatives must not punish Africa's poor, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — New trade initiatives aimed at boosting Africa's economy must not penalize the continent's already impoverished people, a Vatican official told the United Nations.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's representative to the United Nations in New York, made the comments in an address to the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 19, during a review of progress and challenges in Africa.

The archbishop noted that not all the news from Africa was bad. For example, he said, last year's economic growth on the continent was the highest in 30 years.

Nevertheless, Archbishop Migliore said, Africa continues to endure situations of conflict and extreme forms of poverty difficult to uproot.

Aggravating the economic suffering is a brain drain throughout Africa, as many of the most educated and skilled people, especially in the health sector, leave the continent for better economic

opportunities elsewhere, he said.

"Africa's integration into the international trading system should help it build its capacity to compete without reducing its ability to safeguard (its) citizens from the undesirable consequences of structural adjustments and trade liberalization," Archbishop Migliore said.

"The international community is called to assist African countries develop policies that promote a culture of solidarity, so that their economic development may go hand in hand with integral human development," he said.

For its part, Africa must demonstrate good governance, anti-corruption measures and the correct use of international aid, if such assistance is to bear fruit, he said.

Archbishop Migliore renewed the Vatican's support for a global approach to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd., Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. A eucharistic holy hour will also be celebrated. For more information, call (704) 829-7196.

BELMONT — A new study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Nov. 6, 13 and 27, and Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. "Genesis 1-11: The Primordial History," will be studied through Dec. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the Prayer Chain at Our Lady of Grace Church. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The Widows Lunch Bunch, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A Support Group for

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 4 — 1:30 p.m.  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

Nov. 6 — 11 a.m.  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Nov. 7 — 7 p.m.  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

Nov. 8 — 6:30 p.m.  
Room at the Inn of the Carolinas banquet  
Greensboro

## Vatican official says Iranian nuclear program is OK if peaceful

ROME (CNS) — A leading Vatican official expressed support for the development of a nuclear energy program in Iran, as long as it serves peaceful purposes.

"Nuclear energy is something that can do good for humanity" — a principle that "is certainly valid for Iran, too," said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Cardinal Martino spoke Oct. 23 at an interreligious gathering in Naples, Italy. His remarks came as Iranian and European officials met in Rome to try and resolve growing tensions over Iran's nuclear capability.

Cardinal Martino defended the right to develop a peaceful nuclear energy program, and said any risks of improper use of nuclear technology "depend on the intentions of those who manage the program."

"Anything is possible, in the sense that I can use a knife to cut bread but also to kill someone," he said.

In dealing with such questions at a global level, the cardinal said, the

international community must balance the need for peace and security with the necessary development of populations.

The key figures at the Rome meeting were European Union envoy Javier Solana and Iran's new nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili. Solana called the meeting constructive, and Jalili reportedly pledged Iran's commitment to dialogue with the West.

The Iranian government, however, has not changed its basic position: that it will proceed with a uranium enrichment program for what it says are strictly civilian uses. The United States and other countries suspect Iran is using the technology to develop nuclear weapons, and have called for tougher international sanctions against Iran.

Pope Benedict XVI, marking the 50th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency last July, said the Vatican fully approves the agency's efforts to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and encourage "the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology for authentic development."

## Stamp of faith



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

At the National Gallery of Art in Washington Oct. 25, Postmaster Yverne Pat Moore of the U.S. Postal Service unveils the 2007 Christmas stamp, which features Bernardino Luini's "The Madonna of the Carnation." The theme of each traditional U.S. Christmas stamp issued since 1978 has been the Madonna and Child.

## Vatican official: Law can't be abandoned for terrorists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The rule of law cannot be abandoned when dealing with terrorists, a Vatican official told the United Nations.

Although terrorists may have no respect for legal systems, states risk compromising their legitimacy if they bend the rule of law in confronting terrorism, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's observer to the United Nations, told one of the general assembly's main committees Oct. 26.

"The struggle against terrorism is necessary, but at the same time it must be established through the drafting, adoption, and effective enforcement of juridical instruments designed to tackle this violent menace with right reason," said Archbishop Migliore.

"The rule of law at times is difficult

to apply to terrorists who have little or no respect for it.

However, states must not engage in measures antithetical to the very principles that give them legitimacy through the rule of law," he said.

Archbishop Migliore said the rule of law was the basis of international cooperation. He pointed to a recent expansion of cooperative efforts in international criminal justice, which has brought to trial people accused of crimes against humanity.

He said U.N. member states were more willing today to take decisive collective action through the Security Council to prevent such crimes, when peaceful means are inadequate and when national authorities are failing to protect these populations.



## A church for all the world

### Priests serving in Peru visit Charlotte parish

CHARLOTTE — Two priests serving in the Apostolic Vicariate of Pucallpa, Peru, recently visited St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Father Gregory Chisolm and Father Miguel Angel Bombilla visited the parish as part of World Mission Sunday Oct. 21, this year themed "All the Churches for All the World."

In August 2006, Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, made a mission trip to Peru, where he established an outreach program between his parish and St. Martin de Porres Church, a small church in the town of Aguaytia in the Apostolic Vicariate of Pucallpa.

"In many places in Latin America, there are dedicated clergy, religious and laity serving in vibrant parishes, but their material resources are usually very limited," said Father Lawlor.

Peru is a nation of some 25 million people, most of whom are Catholics. A significant percentage of adults earn about \$2 per day, said Father Lawlor.

This year, Father Lawlor invited Father Chisolm, a native of Nova Scotia, Canada, who has served in Peru for 30 years; and Father Bombilla, a recently ordained priest now charged with the pastoral care of more than 50 Peruvian communities, to speak at Masses at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

The priests explained the challenges of serving an area of 55,000 square kilometers comprised of hundreds of communities, and served by only 21 priests and 36 women religious, many of whom are foreign missionaries.

St. Vincent de Paul Church took up a special second collection to help the vicariate construct a new chapel in Neshuya, a small town experiencing a population increase.

The collection also will partially fund programs for children and the poor,



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Gregory Chisolm and Father Miguel Angel Bombilla, who serve in Peru, are pictured after Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Oct. 21.

catechetical and liturgical materials, and furnishings for pastoral centers.

In his World Mission Sunday message, Pope Benedict XVI said the primary task of every Catholic is to bring the Gospel message to a world debased by poverty, violence and human rights abuses.

Addressing this year's theme, the pope focused on the need for every local church to breathe new life into its missionary mandate.

Bringing Christ's saving power to all people "truly involves everyone," he said.

Individual Catholics must see themselves not as simple "collaborators" in the church's evangelizing mission, but as being "protagonists" jointly responsible for carrying it out, the pope said.

He said every local diocese on every continent needs to be aware of the "urgent need to relaunch missionary activity to meet the many serious challenges of our time."

## Charlotte parishioner wins Caribbean cruise at Eucharistic Congress

CHARLOTTE — The Te Deum Foundation has announced the winner of a free Caribbean cruise.

Gina Parsons, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and an employee with the Diocese of Charlotte's accounting office, was picked as the winner of the eight-day Carnival cruise during the Diocese of Charlotte's third annual Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

Parsons' winning ticket was picked during the Te Deum Foundation's inaugural cruise raffle drawing at the congress.

"I was thrilled and a bit surprised," said Parsons. "The ticket was purchased for me, in gratitude for helping organize the Eucharistic Congress. I didn't even know I had a ticket until I had won."

Parsons and a guest will join Father Herbert Burke, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, and other Catholics on Carnival Liberty to Panama, Costa Rica and Cozumel, Mexico, in January 2008.

Tickets for the cruise were sold by the Te Deum Foundation, a nonprofit



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Gina Parsons (right) receives a plaque from Billie Mobley of the Te Deum Foundation at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 26. The plaque names Parsons as the foundation's winner of a free Caribbean cruise for two.

organization that provides for the spiritual and material needs of seminarians and other religious.

Proceeds from the cruise ticket sales will go toward the purchase of land for a future seminary in North Carolina.

## Retiring the flag



COURTESY PHOTO

Flags are burned as part of a flag retirement ceremony during the parish picnic of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, held at Park Road Park Oct. 6. Taking part in the ceremony were members of the Charlotte Fire Department, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts and local veterans. The parish picnic also featured American and Hispanic food, music, demonstrations by a South American dance troupe and martial arts school, and games for children.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

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# Clergy-built house takes shape in Charlotte

HABITAT, from page 1

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte and a board member for Mecklenburg Ministries.

A second All Clergy Build is already being planned for the fall of 2008.

Construction on the future home of Congolese immigrants Faustin Kalonfi, Ngalula Mwady and their children began in early September and the dedication will take place Nov. 18.

A typical Habitat for Humanity house takes 13 weeks to complete.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses, providing shelter for more than 1 million people. Now at work in 100 countries, Habitat builds a house every 26 minutes.

Homeowner families are chosen according to their need, their ability to repay the mortgage and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. The organization does not discriminate according to race, religion or ethnic group.

Volunteer builders install framing, roof

"Working with clergy of many different denominations was a real bonus to the day."

— Daren Bitter

decking, insulation, drywall, exterior siding and paint. Professional subcontractors are hired to complete heating, air conditioning and electrical work; to pour concrete; and to lay floor covering.

Sister Inkrott spent Oct. 25 working at the house alongside Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; and Daren Bitter, a candidate for the permanent diaconate.

For Sister Inkrott, working on the house brought back memories of her childhood, "hammering things together in my dad's shop on the farm."

"Working with clergy of many different denominations was a real bonus to the day," said Bitter. "I could see the head, heart and hands of the body of Christ at work — it was truly Trinitarian," said Bitter.



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, caulks a doorframe while Daren Bitter, a candidate for the permanent diaconate, measures a board for a windowsill during the All Clergy Build for Habitat for Humanity Oct. 25.

Oct. 25 was Bitter's first day on-site and he hopes to return for one more workday and again for the dedication ceremony.

"While this was my first 'new construction' experience, I have completed more home improvement projects than I care to admit," he said.

"Msgr. John McSweeney (pastor of St. Matthew Church) has encouraged us as a faith community to get involved in

the community at large and Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful way to do that," said Father Cahill.

"The 'All Clergy Build' idea is great because it pulls many different faiths together for a common goal of building a home for a family in need," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

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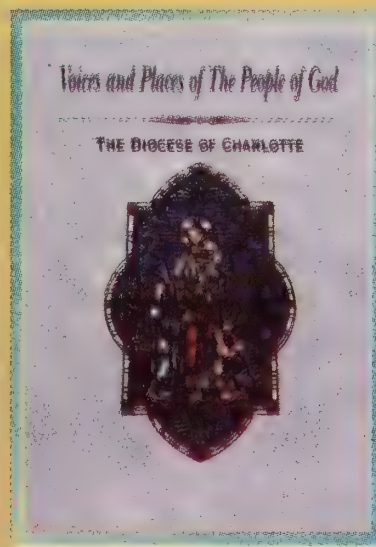
Mass in the Abbey Basilica at 11:00.  
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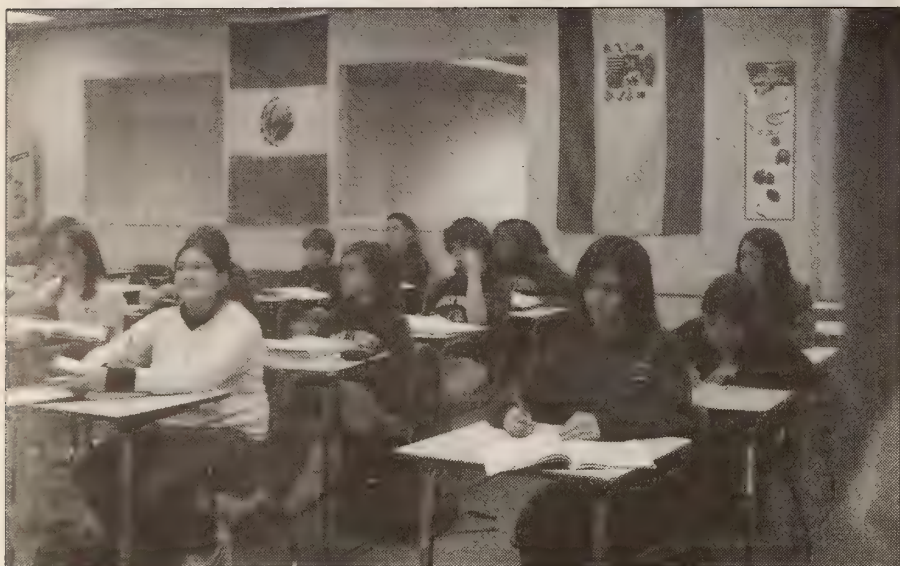


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Christian students from Palestine sit in on a Spanish class at Holy Trinity Middle School Oct. 30, 2006. They stayed with families of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte as part of the Children's Peace Program.

## St. Matthew Church honored for its Holy Land support

AWARD, from page 1

Parishioners Michael and Jane Balbirnie accepted the award on behalf of Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church.

The award is given annually to honor people and institutions that have shown extraordinary commitment to solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land.

The term "living stones" refers to the Christian people (as distinguished from the Christian buildings) of the Holy Land. Most of the Holy Land's Christians are believed to be descendants of Jesus' apostles.

HCEF's programs help provide moral, spiritual and financial support to Christians of all denominations in Palestine, Israel and Jordan.

"Under the leadership of Msgr. J. McSweeney ... the parish has contributed significantly to the well-being of the 'living stones' through both parish-wide programs and individual efforts," said a press release by HCEF.

The parish sponsored two "Holy Land Days," during which more than \$30,000 worth of handicrafts made by Palestinian Christian artisans were sold. In addition, more than 400 families and individuals at St. Matthew Church provided funds to support the education of more than 400 children in Christian schools in the Holy Land.

In 2006, St. Matthew Church participated in the HCEF's Children's

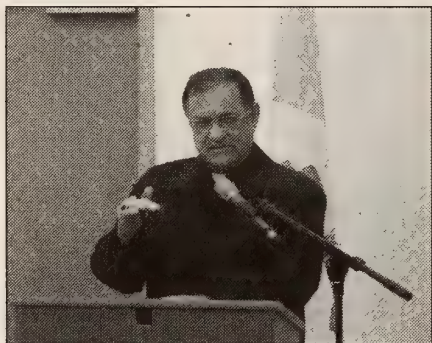


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Archbishop Fouad Twal of Jerusalem gives a presentation on the Holy Land at St. Matthew Church in October 2006.

Peace Program, during which the parish hosted five eighth-grade Palestinian students and their teacher for six weeks.

The visiting students lived with parish families and attended Holy Trinity Middle School with their host families' children.

"This program is a cultural exchange for peace, for it promotes awareness and understanding between American and Palestinian Christians," said Rateb Rabie, HCEF president.

"The children who come from the Holy Land are both delightful and effective ambassadors of the Mother Church," he said.

In the fall of 2006, Coadjutor Archbishop Fouad Twal of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem visited St. Matthew Church, which has given significant moral and financial support to the Patriarchate. Archbishop Twal has since been designated the next patriarch of Jerusalem.

## Time, talent, treasure

### Parish holds successful stewardship fair

CONCORD — Stewardship was recently on the minds of many Concord Catholics.

More than 50 parish ministries participated in the annual stewardship fair held in the parish hall of St. James the Greater Church in Concord Oct. 27-28.

The event, organized by members of the parish stewardship committee, was preceded by homilies incorporating the concept of stewardship at Masses the previous two weekends.

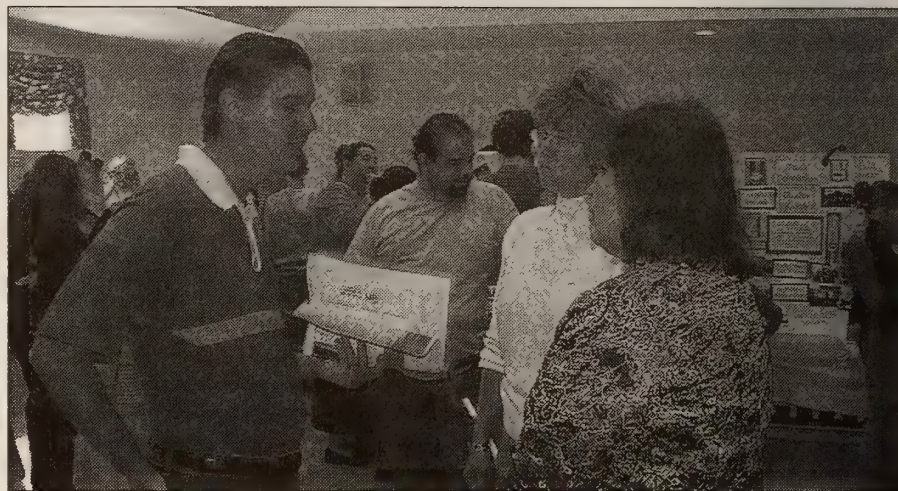
During the weekend of the

stewardship fair, parishioner Jeff Ireland spoke on the topic of "Time, Talent and Treasure" at all Masses.

During the fair, parishioners of all ages visited the ministries' various displays and inquired about their work. Community programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the Community Free Clinic were represented also.

Many parishioners signed up to help with ministries they found of interest.

At Masses Nov. 3-4, parishioners will return their personal pledges of giving their time, talent and treasure.



COURTESY PHOTO

Louise Thoreson and Maureen O'Brien Grogg talk with Mark Michalski, a middle school teacher, about possible service projects for his students during the parish stewardship fair at St. James the Greater Church in Concord, held Oct. 27-28.

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# Catholics, Jews discuss religion, issues in Rome

RELATIONS, from page 1

Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

The conference's 75 participants included Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore; rabbis; and Catholic and Jewish lay leaders from the United States. They networked and listened to experts in Catholic-Jewish dialogue, Vatican officials and each other.

"It has been an unbelievable success," said Gunther Lawrence, the IIC head who organized the conference.

"There has been great enthusiasm to expand this kind of dialogue," one focused not on official Catholic and Jewish representatives, but on local parishes and synagogues, he said.

The participants also had a chance Oct. 22 to question Jerzy Kluger, the man who gained fame as Pope John Paul II's childhood Jewish friend.

"The friendship they had as real people is indicative of how Pope John Paul approached relations with Jews around the world," said Arthur Urbano,

"There has been a lot of progress and we do not want to leave it behind."

— Arthur Urbano

a theology teacher at the Dominican-run Providence College in Rhode Island who attended the conference as a representative of the Providence Diocese.

Conference participants spent a lot of time "discussing the progress in Catholic-Jewish relations under John Paul and the hope that it will continue," he said.

It was Pope John Paul's visit to a synagogue in Rome — the first time a pope had entered a Jewish place of worship — that had opened a dialogue between Catholics and Jews and made Rome the ideal location for the conference.

In his keynote remarks at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Cardinal Keeler, who served as



COURTESY PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI receives a Holocaust memorial menorah during his general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 24 from participants in a Catholic-Jewish relations conference in Rome. Pictured are (from left) Pope Benedict, Rabbi Abie Ingber, Amanda Schiff and Gunther Lawrence.

moderator for Jewish-Catholic affairs for the U.S. bishops, described the Holocaust as having the same level of importance to Jews as the sacraments do for Catholics.

On the subject of anti-Semitism, he reiterated the words of John Paul II: "Anti-Semitism is gravely sinful."

## Missal misconceptions

The conference wasn't all handshakes and smiles. Many Jews in attendance wanted to talk about Pope Benedict XVI's July 7 apostolic letter on the wider use of the Tridentine Mass.

A Good Friday prayer from the 1962 Roman Missal used for the Tridentine rite calls "for the conversion of the Jews," asking that God "take the veil from their hearts" and free them from "blindness" and that they "be delivered from the darkness."

Bishop Brian Farrell, vice president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, answered questions about the concerns by admitting the Vatican was unaware of the prayer's offensive nature when approving the 1962 Roman Missal.

Bishop Farrell said that a decision, most likely to remove the offending prayers, would be announced before Holy Week 2008.

Cardinal Keeler said "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council document calling for an end to anti-Semitism, "trumps all else" and would prohibit the language of the 1962 Roman Missal.

The conference also featured the rededication of a large, six-candle menorah on the grounds of the Pontifical North American College.

The menorah's candles sit on a Star of David that has been rendered nearly in two. It symbolizes the death of six million Jews during the Holocaust.

A smaller version of the menorah was presented to Pope Benedict by conference participants during the pope's general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 24.

Urbano said that, while Pope Benedict XVI is continuing to promote the dialogue, he worries that new generations of Catholics and Jews do not see it as something necessary.

"There has been a lot of progress and we do not want to leave it behind," said Urbano.

Contributing to this article was Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service.

David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

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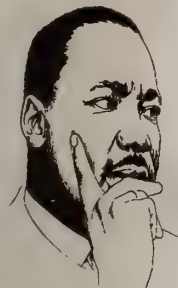
The visitor center features the permanent exhibit "Children of Courage" and the exhibit entitled "Courage To Lead," which follows the parallel paths of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Also, walk down "Freedom Road." While at The King Center, we will visit the final resting place of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and see exhibits about him, Mrs. King, and Mahatma Gandhi.

#### Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church

Dr. King, his father and grandfather, Rev. A.D. Williams, preached here.

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# Day of reflection and fellowship

*Seniors reflect on faith, prayer at annual event*

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Senior citizens across the Diocese of Charlotte have been sharing faith and fellowship.

Approximately 200 people from 16 parishes have already attended the Fall Days of Reflection, which are being held at five locations around the diocese this year from September to November.

The annual event, sponsored by Catholic Social Service's Elder Ministry, promotes both spiritual and physical well-being for senior citizens.

"It is a day that celebrates the lives and gifts of senior adults while challenging them in their spiritual journeys," said Sandra Breakfield, Elder Ministry director.

"The Fall Day of Reflection promotes and encourages participants to continue growing in their relationship with God, while strengthening their relationships with other seniors from parishes around the diocese," she said.

Each event features a guest speaker and Mass.

"Each Fall Day of Reflection has been encouraging, challenging and inspirational. We have been truly blessed with the speakers this year," said Breakfield.

"Each presenter has brought his own style, knowledge, wisdom, understanding and humor to the topic that he has presented," she said.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin spoke about the importance of prayer at the Fall Day of Reflection held at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Sept. 13.

Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski, philosophy professor at Fordham University, spoke on tools for prayer at St. James Church in Hamlet Oct. 11.

## WANT MORE INFO?

To learn about the upcoming Fall Days of Reflection at St. Mark Church in Huntersville or the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, contact Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Sherill Beason at (704) 370-3228.

Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, recently retired chaplain of Belmont Abbey College, was the speaker at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Oct. 9.

Back by popular demand, Father Neilson, who has spoken at previous Fall Days of Reflection in the Asheville and Charlotte areas, punctuated his talk on prayer and being positive with jokes and humorous anecdotes.

"We don't typically schedule the same speaker each year, but Asheville-area participants keep requesting Father Neilson, said Breakfield.

"The important qualities to nurture are a love of God and a sense of humor," Father Neilson told his audience.

"As we advance in age, we advance in wisdom and we should also advance in prayer," he said.

He told his audience not to let others judge how they pray, or their prayers' effectiveness.

"I won't tell you how to pray, but I do recommend praying five decades of the rosary daily," he said.

Prayer is not a matter of feeling, but a matter of communicating with God and accepting that he knows what is best for us, said Father Neilson.

"We know that if we trust in God, it is for the best," he said, encouraging all to pray for the grace to trust God.

Father Neilson stressed that God's love for his people never changes.

"God is not wishy-washy or lukewarm, even though we are," said Father Neilson.

In addition to prayer, he encouraged older Catholics to maintain a positive attitude about life. Many seniors become negative because they do not go out of their way to help others, he said.

Elderly persons with positive attitudes can be emissaries of God to others, said Father Neilson.

They can volunteer as caregivers; visit shut-ins and those in nursing homes and hospitals; and be there for those who need someone to talk to, he said.

"We each have a story," he said, and encouraged his audience to be there for



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson speaks during the Fall Day of Reflection held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Oct. 9.

those who are suffering.

"God will give us the grace to bring other souls to Christ by simple ways," he said.

CSS's Elder Ministry provides leadership and guidance to parishes and older adults within the Diocese of

Charlotte, to enhance their well-being and to promote the development of programs.

Annual events such as the Fall Day of Reflection and the Spring Fling provide opportunities for elders to gather from throughout the diocese.

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# Anniversary couples celebrate marriage sacrament

MARRIAGE, from page 1

opportunity for the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Charlotte to gather with couples who are celebrating the important milestones of 25 and 50 years of marriage," said Gerard Carter, director of the diocesan Catholic Social Services' Family Life Office, which organizes the annual celebration.

According to the Family Life Office, 57 couples are celebrating 50 years and 84 couples are celebrating 25 years of marriage this year. One couple, Joe and Martha Ybarra of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, are celebrating 60 years of marriage.

"In addition to guiding engaged couples in preparing for marriage, it has also been an important ministry of this diocese to join with those couples celebrating such milestone years of marriage," Carter said.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Mass, with Father Christopher Roux, priest secretary to Bishop Jugis, serving as master of ceremonies and Deacon Mark Nash, permanent deacon at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, assisting.

"The Lord's faithfulness has sustained you in good times and bad," Bishop Jugis said in his homily. "The fact that you are here today is a sign of God's presence in your lives."

Following Bishop Jugis' homily, the anniversary couples were invited to renew their wedding vows, sealing

"The Lord's faithfulness has sustained you in good times and bad. The fact that you are here today is a sign of God's presence in your lives."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

them with a kiss.

"As any married couple certainly knows, it is not without effort and dedication that marriage perseveres through the good times and bad; and in sickness and health," Carter said. "Seeing these anniversary couples gathered together is truly a moving experience."

"Through their dedication to sustaining marriage, these couples are a true testament to the commitment to Christian marriage," he said.

"Christ depends on you to be ambassadors of his love," said Bishop Jugis.

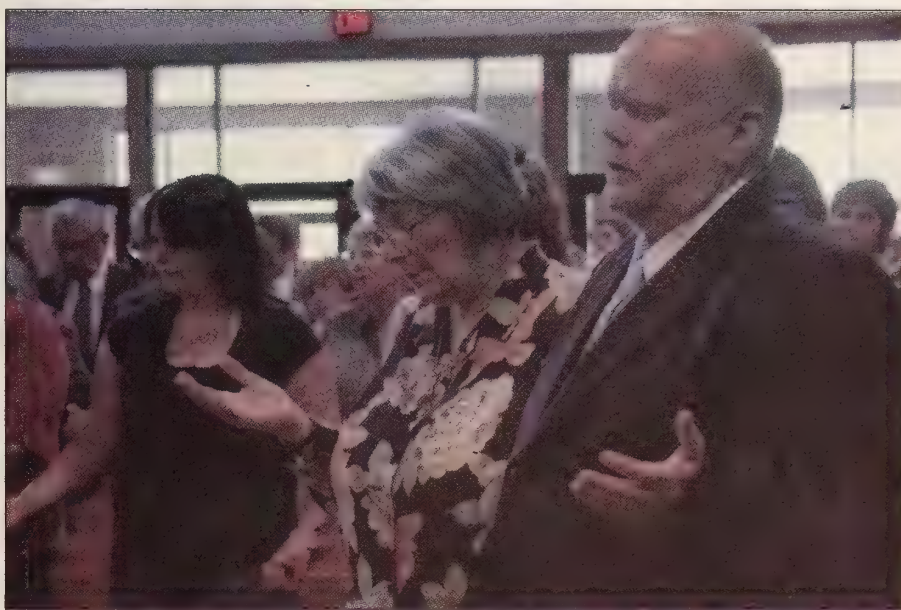
After the Mass, the anniversary couples and their families joined Bishop Jugis for a reception in the parish hall.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Couples renew their matrimony vows during the Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Oct. 28. Below: Couples pray during the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis.



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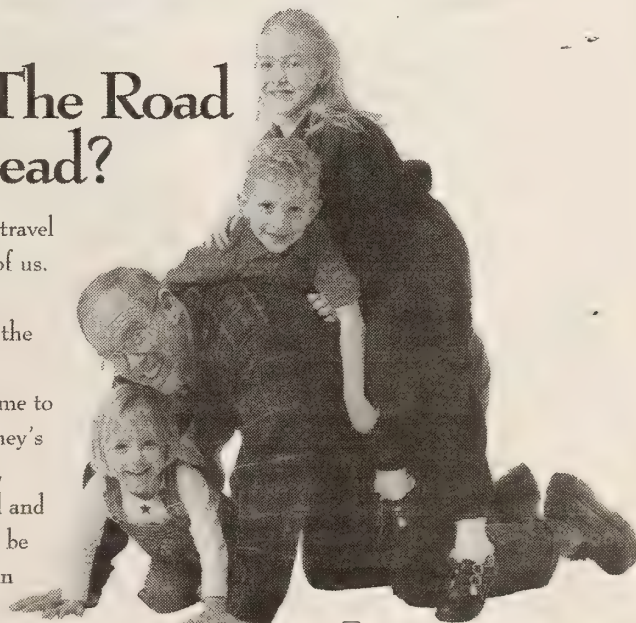
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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Enough, already! Vatican official says Templars book nothing new

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — It was billed as the Vatican's effort to "come clean" and reveal secret documents about the mysterious Knights Templar, the medieval crusading order that has inspired ancient legends and modern novels.

But after seeing exaggerated press reports for two weeks, Bishop Sergio Pagano apparently had had enough.

"I've read in the papers that this is about discoveries. In no way can one talk about discoveries — every one of these texts was already known," he said Oct. 25.

You could almost feel the air going out of the balloon in the packed Vatican conference room, where journalists had assembled for the unveiling of a collector's edition of Vatican Secret Archives documents on the Templar order.

Since early October, international media had pumped the story, saying parchment records uncovered in the archives would exonerate and rehabilitate the Templars, erasing the charges of heresy that led to the order's dissolution in 1312.

The idea was that the Vatican was finally divulging information it had long hidden — a notion that tied in vaguely with Dan Brown's novel, "The Da Vinci Code," which gave the Templars a role in an ongoing church conspiracy.

But Bishop Pagano, prefect of the Vatican archives, was having none of this.

The new Vatican book is "not a scoop, not something extraordinary, does not reveal or remove penalties that were in fact never imposed, or bring to light hidden things," he said.

The Vatican wasn't doing this to celebrate or rehabilitate the Knights Templar, he said. The intent was simply to make scholarly material available in a format of high artistic quality, he said.

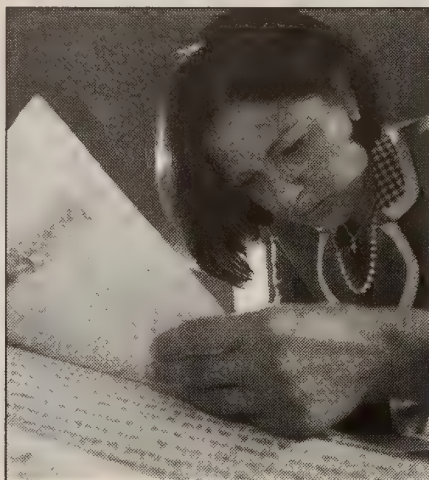
Many media reported that the elaborate collector's edition, titled "The Trial Against the Templars," would include a previously secret document called the Chinon parchment, supposedly discovered in 2001 after being misplaced in a Vatican archives drawer.

The Chinon parchment details a 1308 investigation of the Knights Templar ordered by Pope Clement V, noteworthy because it shows he absolved the Knights of heresy and wanted at that point to reform the order rather than suppress it.

Bishop Pagano, however, said the Chinon document was not a recent discovery. It was "described perfectly" in a 1912 Vatican archives catalogue and was available to researchers — but researchers didn't notice until 2001, he said.

What seemed to bother Bishop Pagano most was the hype over a scholarly volume. "All this noise is not our style," he said.

"We are still proudly convinced — and perhaps we are in a minority on



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Scrinium publicist Rosy Fontana reads a replica document in which Pope Clement V absolved the Knights Templar of charges of heresy. The replica was shown in Rome Oct. 9.

this — that books should be published, read and studied, not 'presented.' Today, books are presented and not even read afterward," he said.

Bishop Pagano's blunt words suggested a divergence between scholarship and marketing at the Vatican, an impression that was reinforced when the bishop stood up and left halfway through the press conference.

Scrinium, the company publishing the new volume as part of a series of facsimile documents from the Vatican archives, sang a different tune.

"The whole world is talking" about the new work, it crowed in a statement.

The reason people are attracted to these publications, it said, is that there is huge interest in "the legends, myths and pages of history" that are documented in the Vatican's files.

The Vatican Secret Archives holds too much to classify systematically, and this surfeit of texts and artifacts may yield "new treasures" in the future, it said.

Ferdinando Santoro, president of Scrinium, told Catholic News Service that some media had indeed overly hyped the Templars volume. He acknowledged, however, that the publicity had helped sales of the book.

Although the book's price tag is 5,900 euros (about \$8,400), orders have already been taken for most of the 799 copies printed, he said.

Vatican scholars say Pope Clement's suppression of the Knights Templar was dictated by a combination of political events and ecclesial pressures.

Beginning in 1307, King Philip IV of France arrested and tortured many knights, extracting false confessions of heresy and ordering assets seized.

Pope Clement wanted to end abuses in the order and reorganize it, but eventually he bowed to the king's pressure and formally dissolved the Knights Templar, because he feared a schism of the church in France.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 11, 2007

Nov. 11, Thirty-second  
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14  
Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
- 3) Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

## Justice may require suffering as Jesus did

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I spent an hour walking through a war museum in Hanoi last summer. Some of the place names and battles depicted were familiar.

It was interesting to read the descriptions of the American war from a Vietnamese perspective more than three decades later.

Typical of a war museum, the displays showed struggle, death and heroism as well as cities and landscapes ravaged by firepower. But a room at the far end of the building silently "spoke" of something lasting.

Filled with photographs, the walls told the story of "the women of the war." There were pictures of a few women who had served as spies or functioned in direct battle operations.

However, most of the photos were of those who had lost husbands and children in the war.

As I went from picture to picture the effect became palpable. "Her husband, father and six brothers were killed," read

an interpretive sign in old-fashioned type. "She is shown with her daughters — all of her sons died in the fighting," explained another.

"She gave her husband and 14 sons in the war." My mind could not accommodate the thought. Examining this woman's strained face, I could only guess that she survived on the hope of resurrection.

That's all some people have. I've known a few, and it seems they endure their days clinging to that thread. While others of us may have an easier time of it, we really ought to pay attention to these persons' reality — because ours is connected to it.

The hope and truth of resurrection is the message of this weekend's readings.

The story in Maccabees is of a woman and her seven sons who were tortured by their oppressors. They endured the suffering in the belief that they would be raised up "to live again forever."

This Scripture speaks on behalf of countless victims of injustice throughout human history, and in the Gospel Jesus confirms that their hope in the resurrection will indeed be realized.

Justice is the key. Jesus suffered and died as a victim of injustice and was resurrected "to live again forever" in the reign of love, peace and justice.

If we wish to participate in the resurrection with Jesus and all who lived and suffered for the sake of justice, we also must embrace the reality of that life.

### Questions:

Who is someone I have witnessed suffering for the sake of justice? How is my hope of resurrection tied to that of others, past and present?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 4-10

Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 11:22-12:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2, Luke 19:1-10; Monday, Romans 11:29-36, Luke 14:12-14; Tuesday, Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; Wednesday, Romans 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33; Thursday, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; Friday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica), Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; Saturday (St. Leo), Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 11-17

Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38; Monday (St. Josaphat), Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; Tuesday (St. Frances Xavier Cabrini), Wisdom 2:23-3:9, Luke 17:7-10; Wednesday, Wisdom 6:1-11, Luke 17:11-19; Thursday (St. Albert the Great), Wisdom 7:22-8:1, Luke 17:20-25; Friday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude), Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; Saturday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary), Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8.

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# Still too taboo

Hollywood said to treat abortion themes with 'trepidation' in films

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The treatment of abortion themes in movies may seem to be skewed against a pro-life viewpoint — if they're presented at all — but the issue is much rarer in films than many might think.

Forty years ago "the Production Code forbade touching abortion in Hollywood movies," said Henry Herx, retired director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Also known as the Hays Code and put in place in 1930, it regulated all manner of content.

"It's all changed since 1968 with the dropping of the Production Code,"

he said, and the institution of a ratings system by the Motion Picture Association of America that didn't evaluate content until after it was committed to celluloid.

But even so, the abortion issue is still approached "with great trepidation" by filmmakers, said Harry Forbes, the current director of the film and broadcasting office. "For all of the liberalness of Hollywood, when it comes to depicting that sort of thing on screen, the filmmakers are very, very careful not to offend."

Noting, as did Herx, there was a taboo about presenting abortion for the 40 years the self-imposed Production Code was in effect, Forbes added:

"I almost can't think of an instance where a character has had an abortion in



CNS PHOTO BY ROADSIDE

Tammy Blanchard and Eduardo Verastegui star in the movie "Bella."

the film and the script has let her get off lightly for whatever reason. So I think it's still somewhat taboo, and, hopefully, will remain so."

"It's almost universally (that) things are presented from the view of 'the woman's right,' 'not such a big deal,'" said Susan Wills, assistant director for program development in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"There's no portrayal of the reality of the abortion aftermath," she added. "Men who impregnate these women are portrayed as uncaring boors."

"In recent times," Forbes said, "probably the benchmark for abortion movies was 'Vera Drake,' which was about a middle-class English housewife who performs abortions on the side unbeknownst to her family, and she believes she's doing these girls who are 'in trouble' a good turn."

"What was interesting about the film was you could walk away from it feeling — feeling rightly — that what she was doing was very wrong," he said.

Thomas Grenchik, executive director of the pro-life secretariat, spoke about the new movie "Bella," in which a pregnant woman contemplates an abortion but ultimately decides against it.

"It's not a happy, made-up ending ... but more of a real-life ending," said Grenchik.

In "Bella," which opened Oct. 26, an

unwed restaurant waitress gets fired from her job the morning she confirms she's pregnant, only to have the restaurant's best cook abandon his duties and hang out with her throughout the day in a subtle attempt to persuade her to not have an abortion.

Despite being "sometimes dramatically slack and implausible, and rather overly pat in its plot resolutions," "Bella" has "an affirmative pro-life message, along with themes of self-forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption that should resonate deeply with Catholic viewers," Forbes said in his review.

He gave "Bella" a classification of A-II — adults and adolescents. On the other hand, the 2004 film "Vera Drake" received an L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

It did, however, get nominated for three Oscars and won a slew of awards in Britain, where the picture was set.

Another film with abortion as a central theme, 1999's "The Cider House Rules," won two Oscars.

"Given the unfortunate prevalence of abortion in real life, I think filmmakers still treat it with great trepidation. I don't think abortion is ever shown to be a good thing or even a casual thing," Forbes said. "I don't think filmmakers give abortion a pass."



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## Pope calls Beethoven's 'Ninth' masterful expression of optimism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After listening to a performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony," Pope Benedict XVI called the work a masterful expression of optimism in the face of suffering.

The pope listened to the performance by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at the Vatican Oct. 28. Afterward, he gave a talk that reflected his interest in music and his familiarity with Beethoven's work.

Beethoven's "Ninth" is one of the best-known compositions of Western music and was written when the composer was almost completely deaf. Its finale, "Ode to Joy," uses soloists, chorus and orchestra.

The pope said he was increasingly amazed at the work, which was Beethoven's last complete symphony, written after years of self-isolation.

"Beethoven had to fight internal and external problems that brought him depression and deep bitterness and threatened to suffocate his artistic creativity," the pope said.

Then, in 1824, Beethoven surprised the public with "a composition that broke the traditional form of the symphony" and elevated it to an expression of joy and optimism, he said.

The pope said the careful listener can follow this drama in the music itself, as it progresses from the dark tones and famous "empty fifths" of the strings at the beginning of the overture to an explosion of jubilation at the end. The sense of joy that emerges from the music is "not something light and superficial, but a sentiment acquired through much work, overcoming the emptiness of someone who had been pushed into isolation by deafness," the pope said.

He said the musical composition reminded him of a passage from the prophet Isaiah: "On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see." He said the reference is to the gift of perception received by those who are liberated from struggles through God's grace.



## Fun and faith

*Middle school students learn about prayer at youth rally*

KERNERSVILLE — Middle school students recently learned about the importance of prayer and having a relationship with Jesus.

More than 100 youths took part in "Let Us Pray," the middle school youth rally held at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Oct. 20. The event was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

The rally included music, skits, talks and eucharistic adoration, led by Deacon Vincent Shaw, permanent deacon at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Lay members of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts, also known as the O.A.T.H. Brothers, were the rally's presenters. They gave talks and performed skits that emphasized a life of prayer and avoiding sin.

"They spoke about the real issues that kids face, such as peer pressure and temptation," said Peg Ruble, associate director of diocesan youth ministry.

The O.A.T.H. Brothers, based in

Dover, Del., take vows of poverty, obedience and chastity. They spoke about their devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and about how their response to Christ is performed through their ministry.

"They engaged the youths in very interactive, fun activities that emphasized their knowledge and understanding of the faith," said Ruble.

"The kids warmly accepted them — the brothers were genuine people who had a genuine message about Christ, and they made Christ's message real and one that they could all embrace and follow," she said.

The O.A.T.H. Brothers told the youths about four ways to have a relationship with Christ: through prayer, reconciliation, the Eucharist and the rosary. They gave all the youths rosaries to take home.

"They were very engaging and had a profound impact on the kids," said Ruble.

## Saints in the making



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTT

Children dressed as saints and biblical characters mingle in the parish hall after Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville as part of a parish All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebration Oct. 27.

The parish's youth ministry sponsored the annual celebration, which included decorating the hall, setting up for dinner and running the games. While the children played, the adults enjoyed a meal.

All Saints' Day, celebrated Nov. 1, is a holy day of obligation and commemorates all those in heaven. All Souls' Day is celebrated Nov. 2.

In his homily at a Mass on All Saints' Day 2006, Pope Benedict XVI said the feasts of All Saints and All Souls "help us meditate on the final goal of our earthly pilgrimage."

The saints of the Catholic Church, the pope said, are a source of inspiration, encouraging the faithful to follow in their footsteps and experience true happiness found with God's love.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brother Chester, an Oblate Apostle of the Two Hearts, leads youths in an activity during the diocesan middle school youth rally at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Oct. 20.

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS



COURTESY PHOTO

Maureen Cavanaugh thanks students for their gifts after Our Lady of Grace School's weekly student Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro Oct. 17. Also pictured (from left): Shirley Kinlaw, assistant principal; Gary Gelo, principal; Patty Jennings, administrative assistant to the pastor; and students.

## Students honor long-time staff members at school, parish

GREENSBORO — Two long-time staff members of Our Lady of Grace Church and School are moving on.

Maureen Cavanaugh, parish nurse, and Patty Jennings, administrative assistant to the pastor, were honored for their service to the parish, school and community during the school's weekly Mass Oct. 17.

They are leaving their respective positions to pursue other opportunities.

Maureen Cavanaugh served as parish nurse for nearly eight years. Among her many responsibilities with the parish health ministry, Cavanaugh assisted with the school's family life curriculum and led workshops on medical issues that teachers may encounter in the classroom.

Patty Jennings has served as

the pastor's administrative assistant for 13 years. Jennings often worked with the school's faculty and students on community service projects, including Thanksgiving baskets and food collections.

In addition, students would assist Jennings with parish-related tasks, such as replacing worn missals and cleaning the pews.

As a sign of gratitude, the students prepared spiritual bouquets filled with cards, prayers and good wishes for Cavanaugh and Jennings. After Mass, representatives of each class presented the gifts.

The school also gave Cavanaugh and Jennings each a gold cross necklace as a remembrance of their ministries at Our Lady of Grace Church and School.

## Bells and prayers



COURTESY PHOTO

Pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students of St. Michael School in Gastonia gather around St. Michael Church's bell and plaque for a prayer service Sept. 28, to celebrate the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel Sept. 29. Students took turns reading prayers, and after each prayer a student rang the bell. The first-graders finished the prayer service by leading students and faculty in the school song, "Hail to St. Michael's."



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints



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*The struggles of living in poverty affect 37 million Americans, who labor on a daily basis to meet the ordinary needs of their families. Thirteen million of these impoverished Americans are children — that is one in every six of America's youngest.*

*Our faith calls us to work for an end to the injustice of poverty, to help the most vulnerable among us to find resources to improve their lives.*

*The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) stands with poor and low-income people, helping them create permanent solutions to poverty in their communities. Real, sustainable change by the CCHD is made possible through the generous support of parishioners across the country.*

*The CCHD's efforts are funded almost entirely through an annual parish collection. This year's appeal will take place on Nov. 17 and 18, 2007. The donations are used by the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the country as well as here in the Diocese of Charlotte, where they fund initiatives to benefit those who are poor and vulnerable.*

*These grassroots efforts — national and local — are providing tangible resources to help poor people help themselves.*

*Although the Campaign for Human Development is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of poverty, its goals cannot be accomplished without your help. Please join this effort in solidarity to help put an end to poverty in our nation.*

*Many God bless you for your generosity.*

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. Mauricio W. West  
Vicar General and Chancellor

## Investments in the future and present CCHD campaign a chance to better lives of many

You don't have to look very hard to see that poverty is as prevalent in the Diocese of Charlotte as it is in areas that get more publicity, but we are also blessed to have the effective, compassionate efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to help people here break the cycle of poverty.

Since its founding by the U.S. bishops in 1970, CCHD's mission has been to eliminate poverty and injustice in this country. Working toward that goal, CCHD has funded programs that build strong communities through the development of low-income leaders and through a focus on the root causes of poverty.

Moreover, CCHD is one of the largest funders of community-controlled self-help groups in our nation.

CCHD uses funds raised nationally in a once-a-year collection in Catholic parishes to fund innovative, grassroots projects all over the country. Each diocese uses a portion of the collection raised by its parishes to provide regional

### Guest Column

MARY JANE BRUTON  
GUEST COLUMNIST



grants of up to \$5,000.

Last year, within the Diocese of Charlotte, 22 organizations were awarded grants through the diocesan CCHD program totaling \$46,827.

Because of these grants, previously homeless people are accessing resources and computer knowledge in seven Appalachian counties served by the Homeless Life Skills Project. In Charlotte, Seigel Avenue Partners operates a literacy-based summer camp for low-income children.

## Does God have a cell phone?

*Talking to God instead of our 'circle of friends' a better use of minutes*

I recently took a continuing education course in a classroom full of real estate agents. I was annoyed by the cacophony of cell phones that kept interrupting the teacher, even after she reminded us to silence our phones before the class started.

Cell phones are a great invention and I thank God for the convenience of having one. However, I can't help but to reflect on the fact that, even as recently as 10 years ago, most people didn't have one, and we weren't as available as we all seem to be these days.

Then I asked myself: Is it really essential for us to answer our phone every time it rings, even when we are clearly not available? Or worse yet, why do we leave our phones on when we are in church?

There is nothing wrong with voice mail — it exists for a reason. And I think it's sad that we can't even give God a whole hour of our undivided attention because we have to be on the look out in case an "important" call pops up.

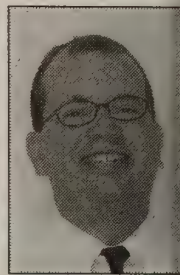
It's amazing that almost every Sunday a ring tone goes off right in the middle of the Eucharistic Prayer. The usual culprits are the same people who get to Mass in the middle of the first reading and leave church right after Communion.

The next questions I asked myself were: Does God have a cell phone? And if he does, does he turn it off when we pray to him?

Maybe he puts it on vibrate, in case the Virgin Mary has a last-minute request, or if St. Joseph calls when somebody is about to die. Of course the answer would be no — God would turn off his cell

### Guest Column

RICO DE SILVA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



phone when we address him.

God is not rude, or inconsiderate, or as self-important as we have become with our collective cellular madness that compels us to leave our cells on always "just in case."

I propose that the world would be a much better place to live in if we all turned off our phones for just 15 minutes a day to try to listen to the voice of God. Let's call it the Divine Plan. The minutes are free and we can't afford not to talk to our Father.

Next time you're stuck in traffic and you're tempted to pick up the phone, just try talking to God instead. God has you in his "circle of friends" and might be trying to call you.

But, ironically, the best way to hear the Father's whisper is to welcome silence. You'll be amazed what 15 minutes of quiet time can do for your soul, and you might save some cell phone minutes, too!

Oops, my phone just rang. I'm out of time. So put your heart and mind in the silent mode, and call our Father now.

Rico DeSilva is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

In rural Asheboro, Montagnard refugees are learning to use modern farming equipment and techniques. Low-income children in the Waynesville area get homework assistance, tutoring and computer lab skills at the Pigeon Community Development Center.

And in Monroe, low-income families get transportation to recreational activities thanks to FAIR Play.

In addition to the 22 local CCHD grants, other grants from the CCHD national office totaling \$110,000 went to four groups within the Diocese of Charlotte last year. This money supports such efforts as advocating for a fair wage for North Carolina's migrant farm workers and working for decent low-income housing.

We are fortunate to have strong, local CCHD-funded groups working with the poor in this diocese. They do a tremendous job with the funding we provide, but they could all use more support.

The annual CCHD collection is unique in that it offers Catholics a chance to make a significant difference in the lives of low-income people in a very tangible way. With our donations we can impact these and other funded groups tremendously.

We can make it possible for them to continue offering resources where before there were none, to intervene early to help children succeed in school, to offer alternatives to homelessness and opportunities for family breadwinners to upgrade their skills and job opportunities.

We have the power to make a significant impact on poverty. Please think about the least among us when the CCHD collection takes place in your church Nov. 17 and 18 this year. You're making an investment in the future but, just as important, you're making an investment in the present!

You can affect someone's life for the better — please be as generous as you can when you do.

Mary Jane Bruton is diocesan director of the CCHD.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about CCHD in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.cssnc.org/cchd\\_crs.html](http://www.cssnc.org/cchd_crs.html), or contact Mary Jane Bruton (704) 370-3234 or [mjbruton@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mjbruton@charlottediocese.org).





# Six million reasons — and counting — to give back

*Stewardship Awareness Sunday a reminder to share God's gifts*

On Sunday, Nov. 11, we celebrate Stewardship Awareness Sunday here in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In preparation for the big event, I went to the Internet and googled "steward and stewardship." Much to my surprise, in less than 0.17 seconds I was given 6,880,000 Web sites that were considered a match.

What a plethora of information!

The first Web site gave me the Wikipedia definition of stewardship: "Personal responsibility for taking care of another person's property or financial affairs." In other words, stewardship is the "responsibility to take care of something one does not own."

Many of the remaining 6,879,999 Web sites proceeded to tell me all the things that I did not own. I found references to Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, Carolina Farm Stewards, Union Stewards, Whitetail Deer Stewards, Stewards of the Reef, Gowanus Oyster Garden Stewards and millions of organizations reminding me of what I do not own.

With numbers like that, I'd be hard-pressed to find something I did own!

I began reflecting on my own life and the things that I thought I owned or didn't own. I own my "stuff," such as my house, car, clothes, furniture and knickknacks.

It's easy to make the assumption that I somehow earned these things of my own accord. After all, I bought them with my paycheck. But I would not have any of these things if it weren't for the gifts and talents given to me by a generous

and loving God.

My thoughts turned to the relationships I have nurtured in my life, such as my children, family, friends, neighbors and co-workers — all blessings from God.

In fact, I couldn't think of a single thing for which I could take full and complete credit. I didn't need more than 6 million Web sites to remind me that everything I have, everything I am, and everything I will become, all are gifts from God.

However, one word did jump off the screen from my Google search — that was "responsibility," as in the "responsibility to take care of something one does not own."

I was reminded of my responsibility to take care of the world I live in, including the Appalachian Mountains, the coral reefs, the whitetail deer, and so on. Indeed, these are all good causes. In fact, every time I read the U.S. bishops' 1992 pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," I am reminded of my call to be a good steward of all creation.

But it doesn't stop there! I have a responsibility to take care of my relationships, vocation, job, resources, faith and church. This calls for action on my part — prayer, work and sacrifice.

One of my job responsibilities is to help Catholic churches throughout the diocese promote Stewardship Awareness Sunday. I send them stewardship bulletins as well as lots of ideas for celebrating stewardship and encouraging their parishioners to embrace it as

## Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY  
GUEST COLUMNIST



a way of life.

But to be honest, the person it helps the most is me! It gives me an opportunity to re-evaluate my own stewardship of God's gifts.

I take a look at the amount of time I spend in prayer each day, the way I use my God-given talents in service to others and the amount of my treasure that I give to the church and charity.

It gives me a chance to take a step and move forward on my own faith journey, to increase my prayer time, to nurture a new talent, to increase my giving of treasure.

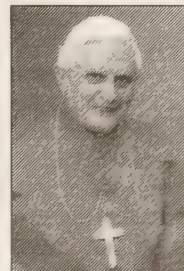
I really don't need 6,880,000 Web sites to remind me that everything really belongs to God. After all, it's right there in the Bible: "For everything is from you, and we only give you what we have received from you" (1 Chronicles 29:14-16).

*Barbara Gaddy is associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## Christians must live as good citizens, pope says at audience

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICANCITY(CNS)—Christians are obliged to live as good citizens, paying their taxes, sharing with the poor and working for political policies that promote justice and peace, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"A profound relationship between the obligations of a Christian and those of a citizen" exists, the pope said Oct. 31 at his weekly general audience.

Focusing on the teaching of St. Maximus, who became bishop of Turin, Italy, in 398, Pope Benedict explained how barbarian invasions often forced early Christian leaders to become civic leaders as well as spiritual leaders when social structures had fallen into ruin.

While times have changed, he said, "the obligations of the believer toward his city (and) his nation remain valid. The connection between the honest citizen and that of the good Christian has not been surpassed."

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the fathers of the early church, we now turn from St. Eusebius of Vercelli and St. Ambrose of Milan to another great bishop of northern Italy, St. Maximus of Turin.

We meet Maximus as bishop of Turin in 398, a year after the death of Ambrose. It was a time of growing civil unrest, when Turin had become a centre of refuge for those fleeing before the barbarian invaders.

His homilies reflect a growing awareness of the responsibility of Christians to promote a just social order grounded in solidarity with the poor. Addressed specifically to the wealthy, the homilies inculcate concern for those in need, readiness to sacrifice for the common good and commitment to public service.

Like many other bishops of the time, Maximus found himself called upon to take on greater civic authority and responsibility.

His example and teaching remind us that, whatever the age in which they live, Christian believers are called upon to carry out faithfully their duties as citizens, working to imbue temporal society with the spirit of the Gospel, and striving to achieve a vital synthesis between their duties as citizens of the earthly city and their commitment to work for the coming of God's Kingdom of holiness, justice and peace.

## Compassion personified

*Memories of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin*

*Editor's note: Cardinal Joseph Bernardin died 11 years ago this November.*

As I walked through the galleries of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, there before me was a larger-than-life painting of Chicago's Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

On the inscription next to it, onlookers read that Cardinal Bernardin was well-liked and especially known for his consistent moral ethics.

He taught that good Catholics must not only be against abortion, but also against euthanasia, racism, capital punishment and everything that lowers human dignity.

As I pondered our friendship when he was alive, I could hear a video in the background explaining that portraits make us stop and wonder what prominent people and their times were like.

My thoughts went back to the 1990s at a time when I had a very difficult decision to make. I called Cardinal Bernardin for advice and was told by the sister attending him that he was in great

pain due to his pancreatic cancer.

I told her to forget my call and hung up. An hour later I received a call, "Happy Valentine's Day, Gene, what can I do for you?" It was Joe Bernardin returning my call from his deathbed.

No doubt, his many writings and talks have inspired Catholics in Chicago and around the world. What especially made him beloved was the way he reached out to people and attended to their needs.

He was compassion personified.

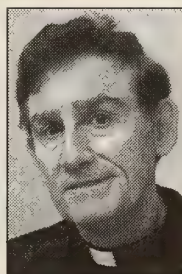
He also was a unifier. He knew how to work the backroom and coax people into agreeing. He practiced the old proverb, "You can get more bees with honey than vinegar."

My thoughts went further back to the early 1980s when Cardinal Bernardin had his most successful years in directing the church. Entrepreneurial is the best word to describe those years. There was a new project every year.

One year was the year of catechesis, the next the year of the family or the year of youth ministry. Then came Cardinal Bernardin's famous war and peace

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



pastoral letter, which became one of the most-read commentaries on war and possible total annihilation.

During those times, the best of minds came together seeking creative ways to respond to the mounting challenges of a new and unpredictable era. Exciting ideas and possibilities filled the air.

As I exited the National Portrait Gallery, I felt sad. Not only did the portrait of Cardinal Bernardin remind me of the loss of a dear friend, but it reminded me that much of the entrepreneurial spirit of the past is gone, as is the brand of leadership that once existed.

I was consoled, however, in knowing that thousands of people will view Cardinal Bernardin's portrait. Perhaps, just perhaps, one or two of them will be inspired to follow in his footsteps and create a new and more vibrant church.



# A 'Diocese Without Borders'

*Young U.S., Mexican Catholics find unity at retreat on the border*

BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NOGALES, Mexico — The teens and young adults who filed off buses for Mass along the U.S.-Mexico border Oct. 21 confronted the wall that separates the two countries. While others see division, they saw unity.

The 100 or so young Catholics, who came together in Nogales for an educational retreat Oct. 19-21 at Casa Misericordia, saw artists' renderings of hope and fear painted on the border barrier.

One mural depicted an immigrant caught by a Border Patrol agent while illegally crossing the border. Above the image, written in Spanish, was, "Live to be free. Die to stop being a slave."

Other metallic images hung from the wall: caricatures of hands, coyotes, skulls and dollar signs.

The teens and young adults, from the Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., dioceses and the Archdiocese of Hermosillo, saw



CNS PHOTO BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA, CATHOLIC SUN

Father Ivan Bernal from Agua Prieta, Mexico, elevates the host as he concelebrates Mass with Father Bob Carney of Tucson, Ariz., along the border wall in Nogales, Mexico, Oct. 21.

these images in a different light after they spent time together.

The weekend experience, which grew out of a partnership between the three

dioceses and Catholic Relief Services called "Diocese Without Borders," helped Catholics from the United States and Mexico get to know each other.

"You could feel the excitement. You could tell they wanted to be there," said Jose Robles, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Phoenix.

"They were showing a lot of respect for each other," he said.

This is the second stage of an ongoing project that the Phoenix diocesan Office of Peace and Justice began in 2005. The first stage was a series of three immersion experiences with youths in each diocese.

While many of the participants were bilingual, others communicated in broken English or Spanish.

Groups from each diocese took turns presenting an aspect of the complex immigration issue, from causes to possible solutions.

On the morning of Oct. 20, the group watched "Dying to Live," a documentary about why immigrants leave their native land and what hardships they suffer on their journey.

The young Catholics then examined newspapers and magazines for other "borders," or social divisions. The group then discussed what values they had in common and where they differed.

Erica Dahl-Bredine from CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, spoke about the

economics of immigration, explaining that the structures in place in the U.S. and Mexico predate the current immigration situation.

"The U.S. has to play an important part in the economic growth of both countries," said Ignacio Rodriguez, associate director of the Office of Ethnic Ministries for the Phoenix Diocese.

The weekend was an eye-opener for Gerardo Ramos, a teen from San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales, Ariz.

"I didn't know some of the things immigrants have to struggle with to get here," he said, referring to those who cross into the United States illegally. "A lot of them don't make it."

Liz Vasquez, a young Catholic from Agua Prieta in Mexico, spoke about Centro de Atencion al Migrante Exodus, a center at her home parish. The center feeds those who will or have already tried to cross the border.

"If you bring people to centers like that, they'll stop having their stereotypes," she said. "An experience like that will help them understand."

CRS' Marcos Martinez said, "We need to get to know our brothers and sisters on either side of the border. The youth are more open to it."

By listening to each other's stories, "we realize that we are one human family," Martinez said.

Drew Eppehimer, a student at Brophy College Preparatory, a Phoenix Catholic school, said meeting others helped him understand the different perspectives.

"People in the U.S. are quick to criticize people crossing the border," he said. "But what they'd realize is that if the roles were reversed, they'd be doing the same thing."

The "Diocese Without Borders" partnership began in 2002 when bishops of the three dioceses signed "Call to Commitment," a pledge of solidarity. The dioceses then began sharing ministries, materials and exchanging popular and cultural customs.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted added his name to the document after he became head of the Phoenix Diocese in 2003.

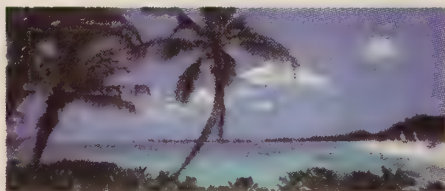
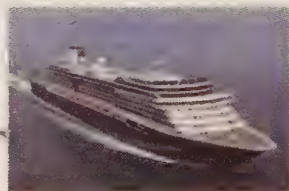
"The present immigrant problem is one little sign of why this ongoing relationship of the three dioceses in two countries is important. We want to show the unity of the church and the catholicity of the church," the bishop said.

"For us the national borders should not be seen as barriers to keep us apart, but as a responsibility to be good citizens of our particular country and at the same time, true brothers and sisters of Christ to all," he added.

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## Perspectives

Thoughts from midst of  
California fires; advice for  
balancing hope and despair

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## Can you hear me now?

*Catholic radio  
group struggles,  
seeks help*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Organizers of a new Catholic radio endeavor say they are having a difficult time getting support for their fledgling operation.

Sacred Heart Communications, a lay organization dedicated to spreading the Catholic faith via radio, began broadcasting three hours of weekly Catholic programming on WDYT-AM 1220 in Charlotte in late September.

Sacred Heart hopes the

See RADIO, page 4

## Fleeing the flood

*Cathedral serves as  
refuge for evacuees in  
southeastern Mexico*

BY IOAN GRILLO

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VILLAHERMOSA, MEXICO — Wailing babies crawl about on heaps of mattresses and blankets in front of the altar. Exhausted grandmothers lie down on the pews and stare up at the stained-glass murals.

Thousands of hungry faces

See FLOOD, page 6

## A chance to thrive and shine



COURTESY PHOTO

Alexi, 6, Nikita, 4, and Mischa, 2, are brothers adopted in 2006 from Russian orphanages by James and Roberta King of Ohio through Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

*Couple adopts Russian  
siblings through  
Catholic Social  
Services in Charlotte*

BY KEVIN MURRAY  
EDITOR

*Editor's note: November is  
National Adoption Month.*

CHARLOTTE — Six-year-old Alexi had chicken pox, a lazy eye and shabby clothes. It was not his best day when an American couple came to his orphanage in Moscow, Russia, but it was the day that changed his life forever.

Within a couple of months of that first encounter, Alexi left his crowded orphanage with James and Roberta King of Akron, Ohio.

He also met for the first time his two younger brothers, Nikita, 4, and Mischa, 2. They have been living in another orphanage.

Together, they would begin

See RUSSIA, page 9



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop John R. Manz, episcopal liaison to the Migrant Farmworker Apostolate for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, visits with migrant workers at a Christmas tree farm in Newland, N.C., Oct. 27.

## Ministering to migrants

*Bishop's visits examines pastoral care of  
migrant workers*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A recent visit from the auxiliary bishop of Chicago spotlighted the plight of migrant farmworkers in North Carolina.

Bishop John R. Manz,

who also serves as the episcopal liaison to the Migrant Farmworker Apostolate for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, made a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 25-27.

See VISIT, page 7

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### Helping to heal

*Catholic couple helps Army  
care for injured troops*

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### Culture Watch

*Draft of book of prayers for  
Mass; 'Golden Compass'*

| PAGES 10-11

### In Our Schools

*Students, faculty celebrate  
All Saints' Day*

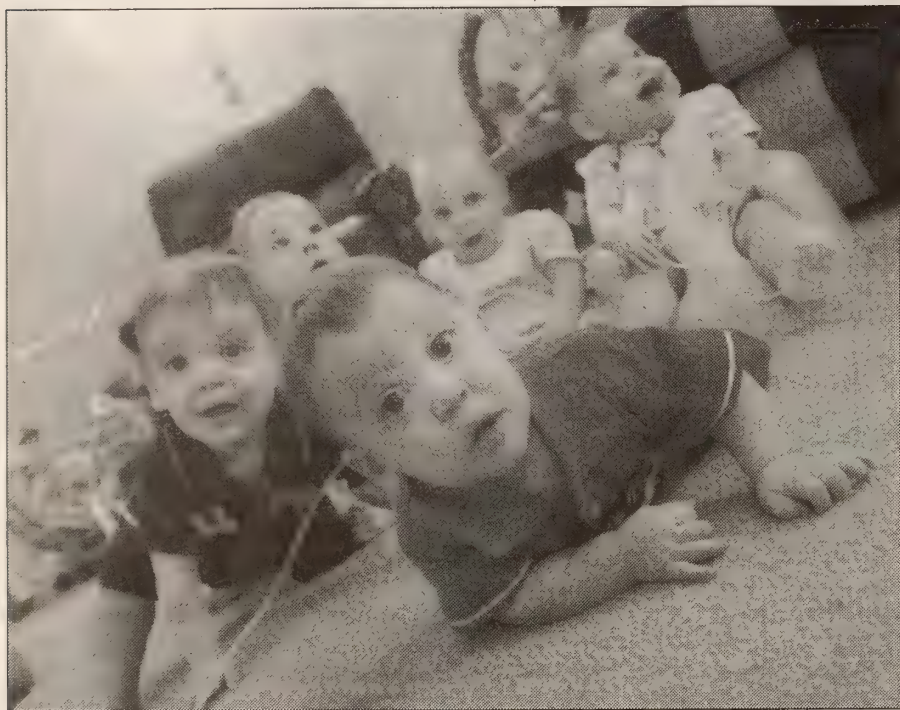
| PAGES 12-13



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## PARTY OF FIVE



CNS PHOTO BY ELAINA GENERALLY, THE LEAVEN

The Brooks quintuplets Owen (foreground), Jesse, Emily, Ruth and Helen are pictured in their home in Olathe, Kan., Oct. 7. The quintuplets of Kate and David Brooks were born Oct. 10, 2006. The Kansas couple said learning they were the parents of quintuplets was shocking, numbing and exciting all at once.

## Quintuplets bring Catholic couple joy, teach lesson in patience

OLATHE, Kan. (CNS) — It takes a village to raise a child.

When Kate and David Brooks found out they were expecting for the second time, they had no idea how true those words would become for their family.

Shortly thereafter, the couple found out that Kate was carrying not one, but five babies. Quintuplets.

"It was shocking, numbing, and exciting all at once," said Kate Brooks. "The first two weeks after we found out about the pregnancy were overwhelming. I kept thinking, 'What am I going to do?'"

The options given to the Brookses, who were already parents to 1-year-old Mallory, were to reduce the pregnancy to two or three babies, terminate the entire pregnancy or carry the pregnancy as it was to term.

The doctors gave them a few weeks to make a decision. The answer came to them during Mass.

"This is what I'm supposed to do. I'm supposed to be a mom of six kids. This is my mission," she said.

The quintuplets were born Oct. 10, 2006. Emily, Owen, Jesse, Ruth and Helen all made their appearance into the world — in that order — each weighing around 2 pounds, 8 ounces. As premature babies, they required some extra care and

time in hospitals — each for different problems.

Owen was the first one released to go home, Dec. 20, 2006; the rest followed. The last to arrive home was Helen, on April 4.

"The past year has been a blur," admitted Kate Brooks. "It's all about them. Having them has taught me a lot of patience. I have to let the little things go and just enjoy these babies."

Having five infants at once required a few more sets of hands than just Mom and Dad, so the Brooks family has relied on a steady parade of volunteers from the day the first baby came home.

Volunteers have come largely from St. Agnes Church in Roeland Park, the family's parish at the time of the babies' births, and now also from Prince of Peace Church, where the Brookses moved last spring.

Kate Brooks estimates 30 individuals are in the family's home on a weekly basis, ranging from teenagers to grandparents.

Kay Osborn was the Brooks family's first volunteer and has come to be such a part of their life that she is referred to as "Grandma Kay."

"With all things, the more you give, the more you receive," Osborn said. "This family has given me back so much; they are a wonderful blessing to me."

## Congress urged to consider global warming measures' impact on poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee and other religious leaders said Oct. 31 that, as Congress begins to consider measures to address global warming, lawmakers must protect "those often missing from the debate — the vulnerable and often voiceless people at home and around the world."

"We are convinced the real 'inconvenient truth' about climate change is that those who contribute least to the problem are likely to suffer the most," said Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla.

He made the comments during a teleconference with reporters. Other religious leaders who participated included Rev. Richard Cizik, vice president for governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, and Rev. Michael Livingston, president of the National Council of Churches.

"For us, the moral measure of legislation is how it protects 'the least

among us' ... in our nation and on the planet we share," Bishop Wenski said.

On Nov. 1 a subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted 4-3 to send a bill — called America's Climate Security Act — to cap greenhouse gas emissions to the full committee. Among other things, the bill aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 19 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and by as much as 63 percent by 2050.

"We are grateful that overdue and essential legislative deliberations are now moving forward and we appreciate the good faith and encouraging efforts under way to address these priorities by the leaders of this important effort," Bishop Wenski said.

He added, "The church's voice and advocacy will focus primarily on reducing the unfair burdens and protecting the lives and dignity of those often missing from the debate, vulnerable and often voiceless people."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Nov. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parish center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — "Understanding Your Late-Life Choices: Care giving and Care Receiving: Making the Twain Meet" will be presented in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are appreciated. RSVP to the church office at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — Do men really grieve differently? Are there messages society sends men about grief? Larry Dawalt will explore "The Masculine Side of Grief" at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For more information and reservations for dinner, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431 by Nov. 12.

CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel

Choir will offer a *free concert* celebrating its 27th anniversary Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. For more information, call Henry Wallace at (704) 575-7507.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with "Lunchtime Spirituality" at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic for Nov. 15 will be Caryll Houselander's "Advent." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

LINCOLNTON — Augustinian Father Gus Esposito will lead a parish mission, "Christ, the King and Center of our Lives," at St. Dorothy Church, 148 St. Dorothy's Lane, Nov. 12-14. On Monday, a Holy Hour in English will take place at 6 p.m.; in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, a bilingual penance service will be offered at 6 p.m. On Wednesday, Mass in English will be celebrated at 6 p.m.; in Spanish at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 735-5575.

BELMONT — Jim and Michele Cowan will present a *free Concert of Praise and Worship Music* at Our Lady Help of Christians Basilica at Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd., Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. A eucharistic holy hour will also be celebrated. For more information, call (704) 829-7196.

BELMONT — A new study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Nov. 13 and 27, and Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican document calls for an end to discrimination against Gypsies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Stereotypes, racism and discrimination against Gypsies must be overcome, said a new Vatican document.

Both people of Gypsy origin and non-Gypsies "are involved in acts of racism; race must not separate us; instead efforts must be made to favor unity in diversity," it said.

The document, distributed to journalists Nov. 5, outlines conclusions and recommendations made during the first world meeting of Gypsy priests, deacons and religious.

The meeting, held in late September at the Vatican, was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, and was inspired by the council's 2006 "Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of Gypsies."

Seeing Gypsies "only as poor people to be helped" must be abandoned, the new document said.

It added that Catholics must come to see that they too are "poor and in need of accepting the human and spiritual riches the Gypsies bring."

The document said consecrated Gypsies could help build understanding between cultures.

It said men and women religious of Gypsy origin — like all consecrated people — are "ambassadors of Christ" and can help encourage "reconciliation and communion between" Gypsies and non-Gypsies.

"Contemporary Gypsy culture is in a stage of change because of technological development, the influence of the mass media and literacy," the six-page document said.

Not only has this helped Gypsies become more aware of their own dignity and take pride in their culture, but it also "offers new possibilities for evangelization," the text said.

Dennis Teall-Fleming, parish director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GASTONIA — All are invited to St. Michael Church's *Free Thanksgiving Celebration*, Nov. 22, 12-3 p.m. The event will be held in the parish center, 708 St. Michael's Lane. Transportation is available for anyone who needs a ride. Meal deliveries are also available. Please call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

BELMONT — The *Gaston-area Interfaith Thanksgiving Service* will be held Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Basilica on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will have its annual *Memorial Mass* for deceased members, family and friends Nov. 14 at St. Benedict Church, 109 W. Smith Street. The Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m., followed by a bring-your-own lunch. A Christmas collection will be taken for a needy family. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — Young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s are invited to come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversations at *Theology on Tap*. ToT will meet Tuesdays, through Nov. 13 at 6:45 p.m. for dinner and a social hour. Speakers begin at 7:45 p.m. Each week we will collect cranberry sauce and stuffing for Our Lady of Grace Church's Thanksgiving baskets. For more info e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadicatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Renew International's "Why Catholic?" program will be presented at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr., through Nov. 26. Small, informal groups will focus on the Apostles' Creed; what we believe

regarding the public life of Jesus, his death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit and the church; Mary, mother of Christ; and life everlasting. Inactive Catholics and anyone inquiring about the Catholic faith are also encouraged to share this journey. Morning, afternoon and evening groups are available. For more information, call Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting the first *Diocesan Black Catholic History Month Celebration*, Nov. 17, 4-7 p.m., at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This free event will feature cultural foods, networking opportunities and informative programs. As space is limited, registration is required. Register to Sandy Murdock at spmurdock@charlottediocese.org, or by voice mail at (704) 370-3376. Please provide your name, number of attendees and a phone number.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Christ is the Clue!" Nov. 18, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 12-15  
USCCB meeting  
Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 18 — 2 p.m.  
Catholic Heritage Society Mass  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Dec. 2 — 5 p.m.  
Affirmation of North Carolina Catholic/  
Lutheran Covenant  
Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Winston-Salem

## Participants: More knowledge of embryo's origin, development needed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A better scientific understanding of the origin and development of the human embryo can help answer many of today's hot-button bioethical issues, said participants in a Vatican-sponsored project.

Participants in the project, "Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest," were to hold an international conference in Rome Nov. 15-17. It was to bring together medical doctors, scientists, jurists, philosophers and theologians to discuss the genesis of human life.

Open, honest and accurate study and debate can help contribute to "an authentic sense of mankind," said Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, which coordinates the project.

Titled "Ontogeny and Human Life," the conference will try to promote dialogue between experts and scholars from different schools of thought, and prompt them to work together "for the quest for truth," said Pietro Ramellini, professor at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum.

The concept of genesis should have a greater place in today's studies of

biology, he said, because the "question of the identity and status of the human embryo" has raised "numerous and hot bioethical debates that have had important social and political repercussions for many nations."

Father Rafael Pascual, dean of the philosophy department at Regina Apostolorum, said that understanding the origin of life is key to protecting people's innate and inviolable dignity and rights.

In today's world, where society must confront bioethical issues such as artificial reproduction, cloning, genetic manipulation and embryonic stem-cell research, "the study of human life from the point of view of its individual origin takes on a particular concern," he said.

Participants also will seek to elaborate on issues that emerged during a conference Regina Apostolorum organized five years ago on evolution, he said.

In fact, the next "Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest" project will be a conference on evolution in 2009, the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species."

## Exchanging gifts and ideas



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Aziz presents a gift to Pope Benedict XVI during their meeting at the Vatican Nov. 6. Interreligious dialogue, peace in the Middle East and the life of Christians living in Saudi Arabia were on the agenda the 30-minute meeting behind closed doors.

In keeping with normal protocol, Pope Benedict and King Abdullah exchanged gifts. The pope gave the king a large etching of the Vatican made in 1550 and a gold medal. The king gave the pope a small silver and gold sculpture of a camel rider under a palm tree and a long gold sword with a gem-encrusted handle.

## Bush to nominate Glendon as ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush will nominate Mary Ann Glendon, a U.S. law professor and president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, as the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

The White House made the announcement late Nov. 5. The nomination is official when Bush sends it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will hold a hearing before sending the nomination to the full Senate for confirmation. As of Nov. 6, no

hearing had been scheduled.

Glendon, a Catholic, said in a Nov. 6 statement that she hoped that her "background in international legal studies, together with my familiarity with Catholic social thought, will aid me in continuing the fruitful dialogue that presently exists between the United States and the Holy See" on a variety of issues.

Those issues include human rights, religious freedom, human trafficking, development and "the fight against hunger, disease and poverty," she said.



## 'Like angels singing'

*Internationally renowned choir performs at basilica*

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Heavenly voices recently filled the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

The choral artistry of Glorie Dei Cantores was presented at the basilica Sept. 27.

The sold-out performance was sponsored by the basilica, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Western Carolina Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Andrew Davis, music director at the basilica, and Sharon Boone, music director at Trinity Episcopal, were instrumental in bringing the internationally renowned 40-voice choir to Asheville for the second time.

In addition to Gregorian chants and European, Russian and American masterpieces from the Renaissance to contemporary times, the concert featured instrumental pieces with trumpets, French horns and trombones.

"It felt like angels singing," said Frances Proctor of Asheville.

The choir "gave me goose bumps," said Barbara Buffington of Arden.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLORIA DEI CANTORES

Pictured is an image from the poster advertising Glorie Dei Cantores' concert at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Sept. 27.

Gloriae Dei Cantores (Singers to the Glory of God) has performed in 23 countries in Europe, Asia and North America. The choir — comprised of singers from 17 to 70 years of age — sings in 18 languages and has a discography of more than 30 recordings.

"It was such a blessing to have seen God through the eyes of so many people throughout the world," Elizabeth Patterson, choir director, told the audience.

## Catholic radio struggles, seeks help in Charlotte

RADIO, from page 1

6-9 a.m. Sunday morning broadcast would serve as a springboard to a more ambitious project — operating the first full-time Catholic radio station in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte.

Despite offering a variety of Catholic programming, the show is struggling to find an audience, according to Brion Blais, Sacred Heart president.

The broadcasts feature devotionals such as recitation of the rosary; prayers by Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; classic recordings by Mother Angelica, founder of the Eternal Word Television Network in Alabama; and "The Doctor Is In" program, during which two Catholic psychologists offer advice.

"It gives us the opportunity to teach about the faith and to offer practical solutions to everyday problems," said Blais.

The volunteers at Sacred Heart have speculated on the broadcast's low number of listeners.

Part of the problem may be WDTY's signal. The station's power was recently increased to 25,000 watts, but dead spots in the coverage area may make it difficult to hear the broadcast.

Also, the station's transmission tower is in Gastonia, where FCC regulations prohibit the station from operating at full power until sunrise — this means potential audience members

in the Charlotte area are unable to pick up the signal in the winter months until after 7 a.m.

Finally, the programming has a lot of on-air competition. To draw listeners, Blais said Sacred Heart is reaching out to Catholics through church bulletin announcements.

In addition to more listeners, Sacred Heart — which operates independently of the Diocese of Charlotte and receives all of its financial support from donors — is seeking volunteers.

Blais said Sacred Heart is searching for potential board members who "have the business acumen and interest to take us to the next level, which would include a capital campaign, purchase of a station and its set up."

Specifically, he said, Sacred Heart needs a treasurer, an accountant and an attorney who is familiar with business law.

Blais, like the other volunteers on Sacred Heart's board, said he feels their efforts are guided by the Holy Spirit. With prayer and perseverance, he said, they will achieve their goals.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

### WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about Sacred Heart Communications, go online to [www.sacredheartcommunications.org](http://www.sacredheartcommunications.org).

Listen to a podcast interview with Brion Blais on docPod, the Diocese of Charlotte's Podcast, at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

## Writing winners



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 7184 are pictured with the winners of the Knights' essay contest for students of Immaculata School in Hendersonville Oct. 31. Winners (from left) Claire O'Leary, Hannah Krowka and Elizabeth Lackey are pictured with (from left) Knights of Columbus Bruce Harris, John Remensnyder, Ed Suarez, Pat Benton, Grand Knight Neil Boland, Sam Altomere and school Principal Linda Kenzik.

## Knights announce student essay contest winners

HENDERSONVILLE — The Knights of Columbus recently announced the winners of a student essay contest.

Knights of Columbus Council 7184 awarded the winners of its annual contest during a school assembly at Immaculata School in Hendersonville Oct. 31.

First place winner was sixth-grader Hannah Krowka; second place winner was seventh-grader Elizabeth Lackey; and third place winner was eighth-grader Claire O'Leary.

The contest, sponsored by Council 7184 since 2002, commemorates the

terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, by challenging sixth-through-eighth-grade students at Immaculata School to write up to 500 words on a patriotic theme chosen by the Knights and school staff.

This year's theme was "What can we do today to improve our environment for tomorrow?"

The essays were judged by a three-member panel from the Knights and the winners were announced during a school assembly. The winners each received a commemorative medal and cash award.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

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# Army addresses gaps in care for injured troops returning to U.S.

*Catholic couple works to help heal fellow soldiers*

BY THERESA LAURENCE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Wounded veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are about to get more adequate support while they recover at new warrior transition units across the country.

"These soldiers deserve the best for giving their all," and until now they had not been receiving it, said Army Sgt. Maj. David Allard, battalion leader for the new unit at Fort Campbell, an Army base on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

The new units will include physicians, nurses, squad leaders, platoon sergeants and mental health professionals responsible for the soldiers' health care needs.

With a new staff and recently completed barracks to house 187 recovering soldiers, Fort Campbell's warrior transition unit is one of the largest in the country.

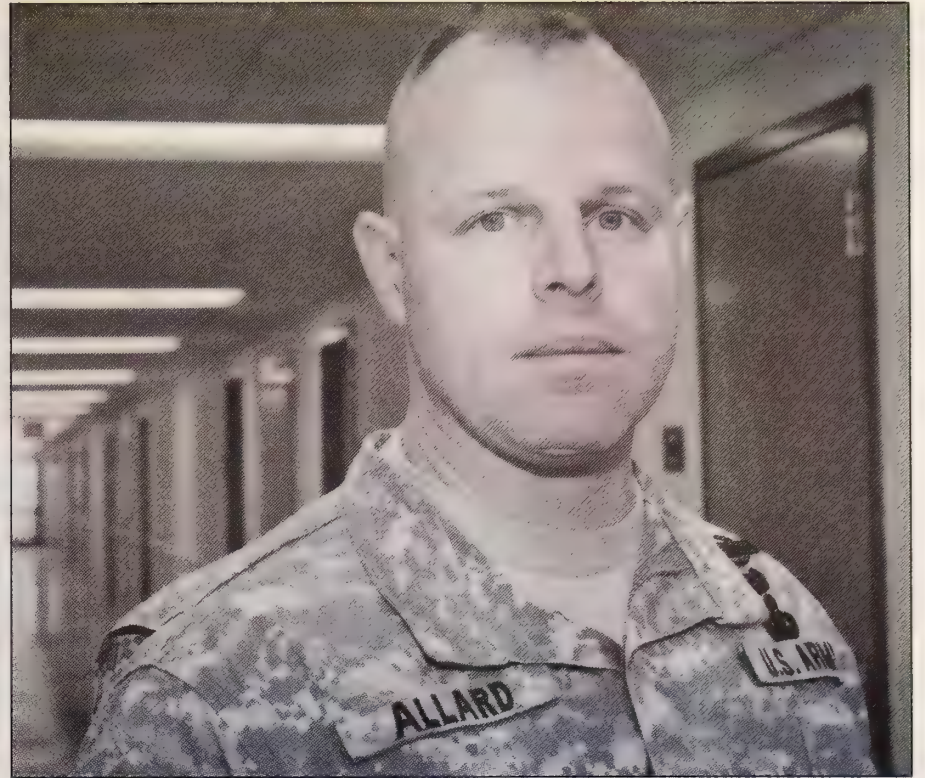
It has been a slow start for Allard and his staff, who are still shifting around office space and realizing changes that need to be made to the barracks to make them fully compliant with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act.

"It's been a challenge, but worth it," according to Christy Allard, David's wife and a member of the Army National Guard who works on the post with the unit.

David and Christy Allard, both Catholics, are, as Christy joked, members of the "universal church," since they go to Mass at Fort Campbell and at churches in Clarksville, Nashville and Hopkinsville, Ky.

They attend daily Mass. Rosary beads dangle from the rearview mirror in the family minivan.

They belong to the Cathedral Veterans Prayer Group, which meets monthly at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, and are also members of the



CNS PHOTO BY THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. David Allard, a Catholic, is the battalion leader for the newly established warrior transition unit at Fort Campbell in Kentucky. He is pictured at Fort Campbell Oct. 30.

## Passionist Partners.

Partners formally commit to the charism of the founder of the Passionist congregation, St. Paul of the Cross, through a contemplative prayer life.

When Christy Allard told the cathedral prayer group about the new transition units, the World War II and Vietnam-era veterans said they "really wished they could have had a program like this," she said.

The existing Army support services were adequate before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, "but once injured soldiers started returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, these small units were overwhelmed," David Allard said.

The Army is now dedicating more resources and hiring many new military and civilian staff members for the warrior transition units, with a priority on lowering the ratio of support personnel to soldiers.

Each squad leader has a maximum of 12 soldiers to care for, whereas in the past he or she could have as many as 50.

Wounded soldiers are generally admitted to Fort Campbell's warrior transition unit if they need six months or more of medical care and rehabilitation.

"Their sole purpose while they're here is to heal," David Allard said.

In addition to a squad leader, soldiers are also assigned a primary care manager, who conducts their medical evaluation and establishes their "road map to recovery," and a case manager who keeps up with their appointments.

The Army also is setting up soldier family assistance centers to provide administrative and social work services for family members staying.

"The warrior transition unit is not only about the soldier, but also about the families," said Christy Allard.

Soldiers' families need support too, and can help squad leaders identify if a soldier is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, which she described as the "signature wounds from Iraq."

When soldiers are nearing the end of their healing process at Fort Campbell, they are evaluated to determine if they can return to active duty, should return to a different job, or need help transitioning out of the military and into civilian life.

Army Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, deputy commanding general of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, has emphasized the importance of providing complete care to returning soldiers and making sure they are set for the future.

During an Army medical action-plan conference this summer in San Antonio he stressed the need to help injured soldiers learn and hone skills they could use if they decide to leave the military.

"We want to allow these soldiers to be everything they want to be in life, and not allow them just to focus on the 'bad leg,' so to speak, but let's focus on them going back out into the civilian world and being a productive citizen in society," he said.

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- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area - plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
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## FROM THE COVER

# Cathedral serves as refuge for flood evacuees in Mexico

FLOOD, from page 1

up outside the arched door, waiting packets of food and water.

The elegant cathedral in the Tabasco state capital of Villahermosa has transformed into one of the principal centers for evacuees fleeing floods that devastated southeastern Mexico in late October, leaving at least 10 dead and hundreds of thousands homeless, turning sections of this city into a hazardous swamp.

More arrive daily to take shelter every corner of the cathedral and throughout its patio and gardens.

Each one brings a story of personal tragedy: how filthy waters enveloped their homes; how they fled from rooftops onto boats and helicopters moving over the riverlike streets; how they lost sight of their loved ones in the chaos.

But amid the suffering, the evacuees are calm and orderly, taking turns to sweep and wash the church aisles and waiting patiently in long lines for the relief packages, even when they have not had food or drink for days.

"We are not going to fight over the food. Everybody here has suffered the same," said Maria del Carmen Arias, 48, sitting in the doorway of the crowded church with a sleeping granddaughter in her lap.

Arias said her family of eight escaped through waist-deep water after the river suddenly gushed into their home, taking everything they owned.

Like many of the disaster victims, she is from a poor background, living in a neighborhood of tin and cinderblock houses on low ground. She comes from a family of peasants who moved to the city looking for a better life, and she said now she might head back to the countryside and stay with relatives.

Graciela Cruz, 25, slept in the church by night while desperately trying to find her mother during the day. She had not seen her since the floods overtook their house four days earlier.

"I have been to every center and there is no sign of her," Cruz said. "I am here praying she has not been hurt."

Father Manuel de la Cruz Ordonez Hernandez, cathedral rector, said he is unconcerned about the church being damaged while thousands of evacuees live and sleep in every corner of it.

"We are not worried at all. We can repaint the cathedral, rebuild it. Why would we want a beautiful church if the people are suffering?" Father Ordonez asked, talking amid a flurry of requests: an evacuee needs medical help; a new truck of relief supplies has arrived; the electricity lighting up the courtyard has gone out.

Most of the cathedral's Masses have been canceled, but one is celebrated nightly in front of the thousands of evacuees and others who come to join them.

"We are happy that people have a space. God is happy they can hear his word," Father Ordonez said. "The people are desperate and resigned, but they are also patient."



CNS PHOTO BY MANUEL LOPEZ, REUTERS

Above: A man crosses a flooded street in Villahermosa, Mexico, Nov. 1. Severe flooding has affected 1 million people, half the population in the southern state of Tabasco. Below: Milagros del Carmen Perez, 7, and her sister, Maritza Guadalupe Perez, 8 months, take shelter at the cathedral in Villahermosa, Mexico, Nov. 6. Hundreds are staying at the cathedral after escaping devastating flooding in Tabasco state.



CNS PHOTO BY JENNIFER SZYMASZK

In other parts of the city, residents were more frantic.

## Desperate for help

An angry crowd blocked a road on the outskirts of Villahermosa, shouting they had not had food and water for days. Their neighborhood had not been flooded, but it had been cut off by water from three sides, and there were no supplies arriving.

As in most of the city, all the shops were boarded up, their shelves stripped bare by panic buying and lack of new shipments. Eventually, a truck of federal police drove up and handed out relief packages.

"You don't get anything unless you fight for it," said Reyes Bernal, who had blocked the road to demand the help.

In some parts of the city, people did not wait for the trucks, but broke into stores and warehouses to pull out food and drink. A few also helped themselves to other

goods, including clothes and TV sets.

Military and police officials said they arrested more than 40 people for looting.

"We will not tolerate looting. Help is arriving," said Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who visited the city three times in the last week.

Government agencies and church charities from across Mexico and the United States and Europe were sending relief after images of the tragedy were beamed across the world.

"We are seeing one of the worst natural catastrophes in the history of the country, not only because of the size of the area affected, but because of the number of people affected," Calderon said.

The swampy oil state of Tabasco has a history of flooding, but has never seen anything of this magnitude. After a week of heavy rain, two large rivers that snake through Villahermosa burst over the city dams Oct. 31, inundating whole

neighborhoods with filthy black water.

The rain continued in the following days until most of the city was under water. Since the first weekend in November, the water levels have started to recede, but only slowly.

## Widespread devastation

The scale of the devastation is seen most clearly from the air.

Large swaths of the city appear like a huge lagoon, from which peek the tops of houses. The vast inland sea continues over smaller towns and villages into the Gulf of Mexico. Small neighborhoods on higher ground form little islands, cut off on all sides.

Emergency helicopters and boats continued to rescue people Nov. 5, ferrying some needing urgent medical help.

In a sports stadium being used as the headquarters for rescue and relief operations, helicopters were touching down and rushing people out on stretchers and into ambulances.

Medical help is made more difficult by the fact that many hospitals have been flooded and evacuated.

The filthy water full of dead animals and garbage also raises fears of disease, and crews have been vaccinating and testing, worried about outbreaks of cholera, hepatitis and dengue fever.

Thousands have abandoned the city completely, leaving in lines of cars or taking free bus rides to emergency shelters in other Mexican states.

Restaurant owner Catlixco Perez, 56, headed out with his family on the long road to Mexico City, their treasured items crammed into their car.

"The most important thing is that we are all OK," Perez said. "There are people out there who don't know where their loved ones are."

Some preferred to stay in their houses, fearing they could be robbed or just not wanting to abandon their homes. Even in heavily flooded areas, families continued to take refuge on the second floor and refuse offers of evacuation.

Relief crews on boats gave water, food and medicine to those choosing to stay.

Domingo Bautista, 52, and his wife stayed on their top floor in a flooded street for five days, but eventually decided to leave on a boat.

"We needed to get more food," he said, wading out of a boat into a street that had become a makeshift dock. "Hopefully we will be back home soon."

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## FROM THE COVER

# Bishop visits migrant farmworkers in diocese

VISIT, from page 1

The Migrant Farmworker Apostolate coordinates and develops pastoral outreach to the 3 to 5 million migrant and seasonal agricultural laborers in the United States. The apostolate is overseen by the U.S. bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services, which serves and advocates for immigrants, refugees, migrants and other people "on the move."

Also visiting the diocese was Sister Myrna Tordillo, a Missionary Sister of St. Charles Borromeo, who works as the coordinator for People on the Move Ministries. A ministry of the Office of Migration and Refugee Services, People on the Move provide pastoral outreach to migrant farmworkers; race car drivers; circus and carnival workers; Gypsies and Irish Travelers; and people who work and travel by land, air and sea.

Bishop Manz and Sister Tordillo met with Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Hispanic vicariate coordinators for the Diocese of Charlotte at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 26. The following day, Bishop Manz and Sister Tordillo visited a Christmas tree farm in Newland, N.C., one of many farms in the diocese

employing migrant workers.

He speaks fluent Spanish, which he learned while working as a parish priest with Mexican communities in the Chicago area.

Bishop Manz makes similar visits to farmworkers in different states each year, evaluating the living and working conditions, as well the pastoral care, of migrant workers. The visits, which began in 1991, enable Bishop Manz and the other bishops who have served as episcopal liaisons to the farmworker industry to bring back to the national body of bishops firsthand experience.

Some workers live in Spartan conditions, in mobile trailers with no furniture or 24 men sleeping in bunk beds in a steel barn, said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Many work 12 hours a day, seven days a week during the harvest season.

"All migrant workers are people who need work and without whom farmers could not bring in their harvest," said Sister Inkrott.

Many Protestant churches send ministers to farms to preach the Gospel and evangelize migrant workers, a practice most Catholic churches have not yet adopted, Sister Inkrott said.

"Catholics need to recognize that migrants are here and need our



COURTESY PHOTO

Sister Myrna Tordillo, coordinator for People on the Move Ministries, speaks with a migrant worker at a Christmas tree farm in Newland, N.C., Oct. 27.

pastoral care," she said. "They need transportation to Mass, Bibles and our spiritual support."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

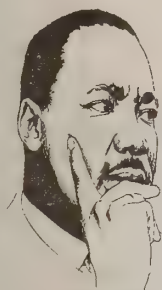
Bishop John R. Manz and Sister Myrna Tordillo are pictured with Bishop Peter J. Jugis and diocesan Hispanic vicariate coordinators during their pastoral visit at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte Oct. 26.

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# Fruits of a crusade

*Missionaries of Charity give life, love with adoptions in India*

BY ANTO AKKARA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: November is National Adoption Month.*

CALCUTTA, India — Life changed for Sonali and Sanjib Dutta after the Hindu couple adopted a girl with the help of the Missionaries of Charity after 12 years of marriage without a child.

Dutta, a pharmaceutical salesman in Calcutta, said his wife “spends all her time looking after our daughter, and life is so cheerful now.”

Two of his friends also adopted baby girls from the Missionaries of Charity, he told Catholic News Service in mid September. The Duttas adopted their daughter in 2006.

“It is a crime to abort a child. They do not know the craving the childless people have,” Dutta said.

Pointing to the children running around the “Sishu Bhavan,” or Children’s Home, run by the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, Sister Marian said the children “are fruits of the Mother’s (Mother Teresa’s) crusade against abortion.”

Sister Marian is the coordinator of adoption services for the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Blessed

Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Since the first Sishu Bhavan was set up by Mother Teresa in 1955, the Missionaries of Charity have helped with more than 6,500 adoptions.

Living up to her pledge to support women with unwanted pregnancies, Mother Teresa opened Missionaries of Charity homes in India and abroad to unwed mothers, giving them a place to stay and give birth.

Sister Marian said an overwhelming majority of the children in the Sishu Bhavans are from mothers who stay at these homes.

Of the 245 Missionaries of Charity homes in India, 19 hold government registration for adoptions and the three Sishu Bhavans in Calcutta, Delhi and Mumbai facilitate international adoptions.

Sister Marian related the dream of one 16-year-old who stayed at a Missionaries of Charity home. The young mother said the night before her aunt had arranged for her to have an abortion, she dreamed that her unborn child pleaded not to be killed and begged to see sunshine and the world.

All the children adopted “have brought cheers and sunshine to the couples without children,” the nun said.



CNS PHOTO BY ANTO AKKARA

Sister Marian, who coordinates the adoption service of the Missionaries of Charity, plays with orphan children at the “Sishu Bhavan,” or Children’s Home, near the Missionaries of Charity Mother House in Calcutta, India, in early September.

When unwed mothers leave the Missionaries of Charity home after giving birth, Sister Marian said they sign paperwork permitting an adoption. The nuns wait months before initiating the process, Sister Marian said, so a few mothers come back wanting their baby.

Sister Marian said that lately, in a country where prejudice against girls is

widespread, many Indian couples have opted for adopting baby girls. According to UNICEF, 7,000 fewer girls are born in India every day than the global average because of female feticide due to social prejudice.

“Many couples now insist on a girl child and do not want a boy,” she said. “We are really happy about it.”



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## ADOPTION

# Couple adopts Russian siblings through CSS

RUSSIA, from page 1

life as a new family when the Kings arrived at home in Akron Dec. 25, 2006. It was a Christmas Day unlike any other.

"We now have these three amazing boys who send me laughing everyday," said James King.

The Kings, parishioners of St. Hilary Church in Fairlawn, Ohio, originally did not intend to adopt three children.

Married for 15 years and with Eastern European backgrounds, they considered the option of adopting a Russian infant and contacted Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C., a licensed child-placement agency providing domestic and international adoption services in Russia and China.

The Kings soon learned that siblings and older children were less likely to be adopted.

"Bert and I realized we had enough love to give more than one child," said James King, principal of St. Martin of Tours School in Maple Heights, Ohio.

Within two days of filing an application to adopt in Russia, the Kings were notified by the Russian government that they needed to be in Moscow within two weeks.

CSS helped arrange the Kings' trip to Moscow, providing them with a Russian team including a driver and translator.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KING FAMILY

James and Roberta King of Akron, Ohio are pictured with Alexi, 6, Nikita, 4, and Misha, 2, during a family wedding in Cleveland, Ohio, June 30, 2007. The Kings adopted the three brothers from Russian orphanages in 2006 through Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

After visiting the orphanages and meeting the brothers, the Kings returned home eager to file the paperwork to adopt all three boys.

The adoption process went smoothly and the new family was soon on their way to the United States.

Once together in Akron, Alexi and

his brothers bonded quickly. Alexi's health has improved, and he and his brothers are learning English with the help of the Russian language the Kings studied prior to adopting.

"They would never have known each other (in Russia). Now they are inseparable," said James King. "They are phenomenal kids who would not have had a chance."

## Uniting families

Since founding its international adoption program in 1994, CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte has placed more than 600 Russian children in homes throughout the United States. CSS currently places between 80 and 100 children each year with couples who have been married at least two years and with single women.

All approved persons and families are carefully screened and prepared to welcome their children.

"The mission of our international

adoption program is to bring together children in need with loving families who can care for them," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte.

CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte is the only Catholic agency in the United States with a direct-placement program in Russia. This means CSS deals directly with Russian authorities in placing children in U.S. homes, usually making the adoption process faster and less expensive than an agency without direct placement capability.

"CSS' support, know-how and professionalism — and their team in Russia — were outstanding," said James King. "Whenever we had questions, they were there."

The CSS international adoption program emphasizes support, preparation and education.

"All children in orphanages should be considered special-needs children," said Thurbee.

They tend to miss the experience of close relationships and personal attention, and they lack many opportunities for proper growth, she said. Children in orphanages who are not adopted may be more likely to struggle as adults.

"Most often with special attention, lots of love and encouragement, and opportunities to grow, these children thrive," said Thurbee.

Thurbee and others from CSS visited Russian orphanages twice a year between 1994 and 2000. Since that time, Russia has restricted orphanage visits to adoptive families.

Thurbee reported that many facilities housed rooms filled with cribs and sparsely furnished playrooms. Too few caregivers could not respond to children when they cried.

"Infants learn not to cry because no one is available when they need them," said Thurbee.

Toddlers often do not get the exercise needed to develop their muscles and coordination.

"Many adoptive parents comment that in the first months after placement, their toddler's motor skills improved dramatically," said Thurbee.

Thurbee noted that a growing Russian economy and humanitarian aid from adoption agencies are helping to improve the care of children remaining in the orphanages.

CSS currently places children from several regions in Russia.

"Catholic social teaching directs our mission to be part of the solution when there are children in great need," said Thurbee.

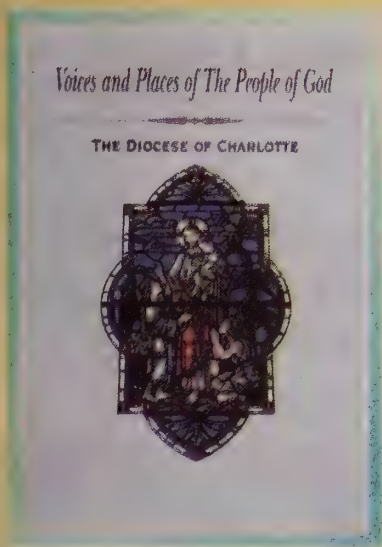
For the Kings, their solution was to keep Alexi, Nikita and Misha together.

"When the boys are in bed at night, we look at them and at each other," said King. "What can we say? There aren't words. It is amazing. Life is good."

Contributing to this story was Ann Kilkelly.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## ICEL completes draft translation of book of prayers for Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The International Commission on English in the Liturgy announced it has completed draft translations of the 2002 Roman Missal, the book of prayers used for Mass.

In a Nov. 1 statement, Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds, England, said the commission had sent English-speaking bishops the draft translation of the final section of the Missal.

"Thus, the draft phase of the commission's work of translating the Missal has been brought to completion, some five years after the publication of the original," the statement said.

Members of the 11 bishops' conferences sponsoring ICEL are asked to review the draft translation, make comments or suggestions, and return those to ICEL by March 2008.

The bishops' suggestions and those of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which established the Vox Clara Committee to help it review English translations, are used by ICEL to prepare a final proposed translation.

The individual bishops' conferences vote on the translation, with or without local adaptations, and submit it to the Congregation for Divine Worship and Sacraments for final approval.

While ICEL has completed the first drafts of all the Mass prayers, it expected

to continue working until the end of 2008 preparing the final proposed translations for the bishops' conferences.

The 11 conferences cover Australia, Canada, England and Wales, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa and the United States.

The last section of the Missal to be translated into English consisted of material listed in the appendix of the original Latin-language missal.

According to the statement, the bishops are getting their first look at prayers for blessing and sprinkling holy water; the rite for commissioning a minister to distribute Communion; and 11 sets of sample formulas for the "universal prayer" or prayers of the faithful for specific times of year or specific circumstances.

Also included in the new draft are translations of a variety of prayers priests can use in their personal preparation for celebrating Mass and for giving thanks after having celebrated the liturgy.

The Latin-language missal's original appendix also included eucharistic prayers for Masses with children and eucharistic prayers for reconciliation and for various other needs. Draft translations of those prayers were sent to the bishops for comment earlier, ICEL said.

## Vatican publishes copy of 1962 Roman Missal as part of study series

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As part of a collection of studies on ancient liturgical texts, the Vatican publishing house has published a copy of the 1962 Roman Missal, the book of Mass prayers used for the Tridentine Mass.

Published Oct. 19, the book is basically a scholarly commentary on the old Mass, but it includes in the back a copy of the missal the Vatican had issued 45 years ago, said Carmelite Father Edmondo Caruana, secretary of the publishing house.

"It is in the form of a small altar missal so it could be used for the liturgy," Father Caruana said.

However, he said, it would be inaccurate to say the Vatican has republished the missal for liturgical use. Missals and other books of prayers and rituals designed exclusively for liturgical use have a special cover and binding and do not include commentary.

The Vatican publishing house has received many inquiries about buying liturgical copies of the 1962 Missal, and those calls are directed to the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," which is responsible for matters concerning the implementation of Pope Benedict XVI's July decree authorizing wider use of the old Mass.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV 18, 2007

Nov. 18, *Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Malachi 3:19-20a  
Psalm 98:5-9
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
- 3) Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

## Never grow weary of doing what's right

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

This week's readings have a great deal to say about the second coming of the Lord and the rather terrifying events and persecutions of Christians leading up to that event, as well as the glory of the coming kingdom when God will be praised and worshipped — joyfully by all.

The reading from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians comes toward the end of this little Epistle in which Paul addressed a community of which too many members were overly concerned about these events and anticipated their approach by sitting around idle and getting into each others' business.

This is where Paul's famous phrase "anyone who would not work would not eat" comes into sacred Scripture.

Decades ago when I was a poor college student, my wife and I lived next door to a fearful (but well-dressed and socially prominent) widow of advanced years.

She spent much of her time looking out the window of her home, peeking through

the blinds, fearful of any unexplained cars parked on our busy street.

Somehow I was influenced by her behavior, very narrowly missing one opportunity to help someone whose car trouble had caused him to come to a halt in front of our house.

Never before or since have I allowed myself to be infected by this fear of harm or loss of my possessions, but I did for a time allow a bit of paranoia to enter my life through this lady's influence.

Perhaps I, like the busybodies Paul refers to, had too much time on my hands.

Likewise, I think some Christian communities generate fear to one another over anticipation of the second coming of our Lord, taking their attention away from the call on each of us to proclaim and live in the kingdom of God right now and draw others to the love of Jesus and the service of his church, our communities and the poor.

Just after the close of the passage from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul summarizes the response that community should have been striving for when, in verse 13, he writes, "You must never grow weary of doing what is right." And neither should we.

### Questions:

Is fear of the future keeping you from serving the needs of others? How might you start living in God's kingdom in the present moment, showing his love to others?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays" (Malachi 3:20a).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 11-17

**Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38; **Monday (St. Josaphat)**, Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday (St. Frances Xavier Cabrini)**, Wisdom 2:23-3:9, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday**, Wisdom 6:1-11, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Albert the Great)**, Wisdom 7:22-8:1, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude)**, Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)**, Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 18-24

**Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Malachi 3:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday**, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Psalm 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (St. Cecilia)**, 1 Maccabees 2:15-29, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Pro)**, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, 1 Chronicles 29:10-12, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions)**, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40.

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## A broken 'Golden Compass'

*Author of book behind fantasy novels criticized as anti-Christian*

BY DENIS GRASSKA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN DIEGO — To all of those Christian critics who have denounced the "Harry Potter" series as a subversive effort to lure unsuspecting children into the occult, Baylor University professor Perry Glanzer warns: Quit crying wolf.

In a commentary appearing in early August in the Austin American-Statesman newspaper, Glanzer noted that while social critics have blasted J.K. Rowling's tales of Harry Potter at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, they have uttered nary a word about British writer Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials," which Glanzer and others say is an overtly anti-Christian trilogy of fantasy novels for young adults.

The trilogy includes "The Golden Compass," "The Subtle Knife" and "The Amber Spyglass."

"I think that as long as people are agitated about whether Harry Potter makes you into a satanist, they're not going to be very bothered with me," Pullman said in an interview with Amazon.com. "So, I'm happy to (take) shelter under the great umbrella of Harry Potter."

A film adaptation of "The Golden Compass," starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, is set to debut in theaters Dec. 7. The Aug. 24 issue of Entertainment Weekly reported that the film will make no direct references to the Catholic Church.

The article also quoted Kidman, who recently reconnected with her Catholic faith, as saying, "I wouldn't be able to do this film if I thought it were at all anti-Catholic." The Academy Award-winning actress also said that the material "has been watered down a little" in the transition from page to screen.

Critics of Pullman include the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which said its position is not "that the movie will strike Christian parents as troubling," noting that it is based "on the least offensive of the three books."

But, the league said in an Oct. 9 statement, viewers of the film "may very well find it engaging and then buy Pullman's books for Christmas. That's the problem."

Glanzer also pointed out that Pullman told The Washington Post that through

his work, "I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief."

But those who praise his work say he is not attacking Christianity itself, but criticizing dogmatism and how religion is used to oppress people.

"His Dark Materials" recounts the adventures of Lyra Belacqua, a 12-year-old girl in an alternate universe that resembles our own. With the assistance of several other characters, she sets out to overthrow the Authority. The novels depict him as a weak, false god and, in the final book in the trilogy, he actually dies.

Also, an angel informs one of the main characters that "God, the Creator, the Lord, Yahweh, El, Adonai, the King, the Father, the Almighty" are really all just names the first angel gave himself in an attempt to set himself up as a divine being.

The novels also take a harsh view of the church, which is called the Magisterium and is depicted as an oppressive institution that appears to have fallen for the Authority's ruse.

The church's minions are the books' principal villains, who are obsessed with a substance called Dust, which is connected to original sin. They are not above kidnapping and performing experiments on innocent children.

One character states that, since its beginning, the church has "tried to suppress and control every natural impulse," and that all churches share the same fundamental goals: to "control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling."

"His Dark Materials" has amassed a collection of prestigious awards. Yet British columnist Peter Hitchens has dubbed Pullman "the most dangerous author in Britain."

"In his worlds, the church is wicked, cruel and child-hating; priests are sinister, murderous or drunk," Hitchens wrote for the Daily Mail newspaper in January 2002.

In an interview with Third Way Magazine, a Christian publication, Pullman said he agreed with his character Mary Malone, who states in "The Amber Spyglass" that Christianity is "a very powerful and convincing mistake," and he rejected the "ugly vision" presented by C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia," a popular Christian fantasy series.

Contributing to this story was Julie Asher in Washington.

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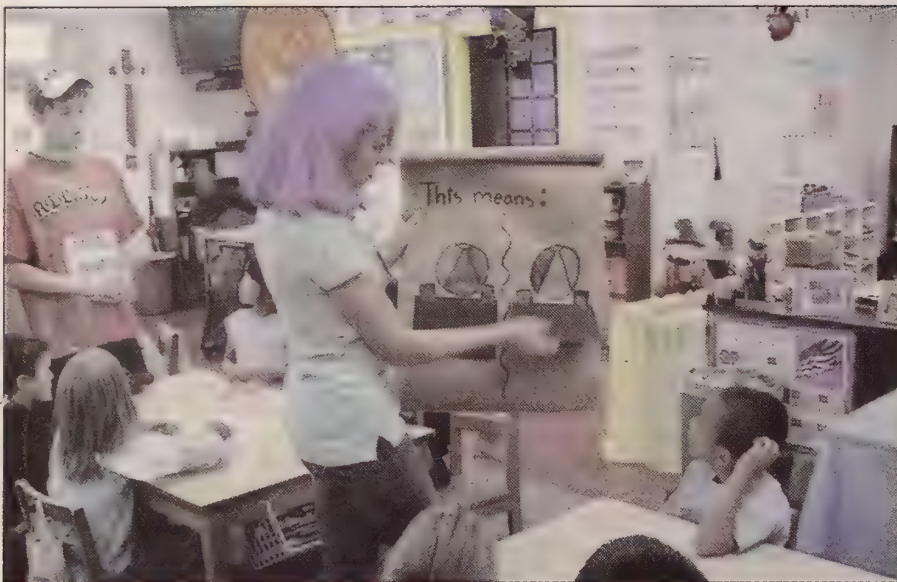
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## Visualizing vocabulary



COURTESY PHOTO

Middle school students in costumes at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem teach younger students during "Visual Vocabulary Day" on Halloween Oct. 31. The older students dressed up as vocabulary words and taught mini-lessons (using their costumes as visual components) to help students learn new words, such as "doughboy" and "monochromatic." Lessons included definitions, origins and examples of various words.

The concept was inspired by the book, "Miss Alainus: A Vocabulary Disaster," in which a character thinks the word "miscellaneous" is a person. The event was organized by sixth-grade teacher Susan Gavin.

## Mercy's helping hands



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured Oct. 30 with the more than 500 pounds of rice, canned soup, beans and coffee collected by the student body for the Catholic Social Services' food pantry in Winston-Salem. The collection was part of the school's monthly community outreach program, "Helping Hands of Mercy." For November, the students will collect hats, mittens and coats for needy children.

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## Big prayers for All Souls



COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem hold a giant rosary, which they made with the help of school art teacher Sara Romanik, on All Souls' Day Nov. 2. After Mass in St. Leo the Great Church, the students led the school community in praying the rosary for deceased members of the parish family. The rosary was then placed in the garden outside the parish activity center.

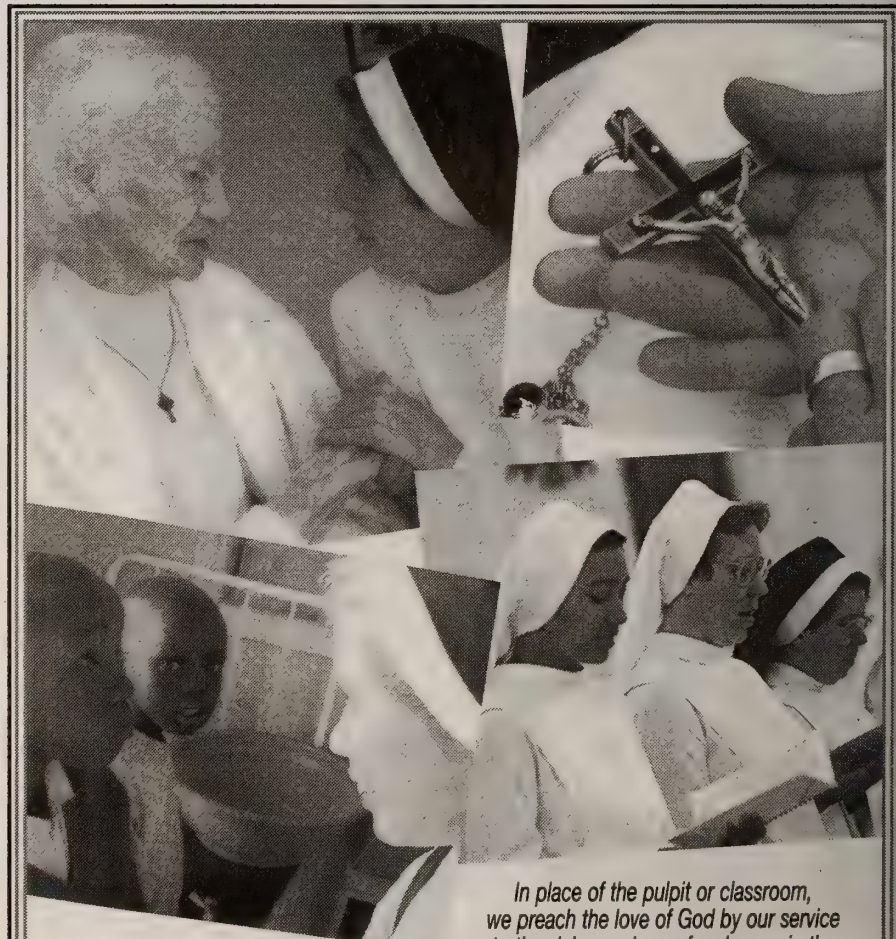
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IN OUR SCHOOLS

# Bringing the saints alive in Catholic schools



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte are dressed as saints during Mass at St. Gabriel Church on All Saints' Day Nov. 1. The student body attended the Mass, where the second-graders were responsible for the readings, presentation of the gifts and processing into the church in their saint outfits.



COURTESY PHOTO

First-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro; Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace Church; and teacher Jane McDonald are pictured after Mass on All Saints' Day Nov. 1. The first-graders, who performed the readings during the Mass, hold a quilt they made to represent their favorite saints.

## Students learn much in 'Saint Museum'

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — All Saints' Day became a unique learning experience for students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

Teacher Maria Ashbrook brought various saints to life through her "Saint Museum," a project researched and developed by her seventh-grade class.

Her students each chose a saint to represent, learned about that saint's life and then presented the saint's biography to the school on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1.

"Saints are very important as role models," Ashbrook said. "They were not extraordinary. They made a firm commitment to do what they did for Jesus."

"I want the students to know that saints come in all sizes, colors and ages. Some are holy all their lives; others, like the good thief, 'steal heaven,'" said Ashbrook, who teaches Spanish to the school and religion to the middle school classes.

A classroom was converted into the Saint Museum, where students dressed as saints stood as statues on chairs. When a "button" was pushed at a particular desk, that "saint" came to life and told a story about how he or she lived for Jesus.

"I got the idea on a trip to New York when I went into a museum there," Ashbrook said.

The seventh-graders had a month to prepare — they chose a saint, made costumes and wrote up their speeches. Several eighth-graders portrayed angels for the day.

The Saint Museum classroom was decorated with stars hanging from the ceiling and candle lamps positioned around the room to create an atmosphere of solemnity.

"I want to thank (teacher's assistant) Joy Eyer, who helped with all the decorations. I couldn't have done it without her," said Ashbrook.

The final result was a unique



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Teacher Maria Ashbrook is pictured with students dressed as saints at Immaculata School in Hendersonville Nov. 1.

experience for the students.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm from them (the students)," said Ashbrook. "This class is very artistic and they took it and ran."

"We had a lot of fun and enjoyed it," said Monique Laborde, who portrayed St. Cecilia. "I learned a lot."

In addition to the stories of the saints, the students were able to view a display of dioramas created by Ashbrook's sixth-grade students.

"We worked very hard and we're happy everything was put together," said Lydia Congdon, who portrayed St. Lydia.

As students exited the Saint Museum, they passed by a mirror, on which was written, "You too are called to be a saint."

"I won't do this every year, because it would grow old, but it was a good project and worked out really well, so I will probably do it again," said Ashbrook.

For now she will continue to prepare her classes to be witnesses in the world.

"I want them to have an intense love for God, know that Jesus is their friend and to develop a personal relationship with Him," she said.

## Halloween spirit



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Mark Akerman (center) and teachers at St. Pius X School in Greensboro get into the Halloween spirit by dressing up as a priest and nuns on Halloween Oct. 31. The faculty and staff greeted students in the morning as gospel music from the soundtrack to the movie "Sister Act" played in the background. Parents and students were delighted to start the day in such a festive way.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Bathed in Christ's light

Encouragement from Pope Benedict XVI

Here are some of my favorite quotes from Pope Benedict XVI:

"I would like to show them (the young people) how beautiful it is to be Christian, because there is a widespread idea which continues to exist, namely, that Christianity is composed of laws and bans which one has to keep and, hence, is something toilsome and burdensome" (Cologne, Germany, 2004, at a Youth Rally).

On July 24, 2007, Pope Benedict met with a group of Italian priests and invited questions. He gave these spontaneous answers in Italian; they were later translated in the Aug. 8/15 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*.

Q: We live in a mixed society. How do you reconcile the need to proclaim the Gospel with the need to have respectful dialogue with those of other faith traditions?

A: The first duty is to recognize them as your neighbor, thus living love of neighbor as an expression of your faith. If this happens we will be able more easily to present the source of our behavior, namely that our genuine love of neighbor is an expression of our faith.

Our dialogue cannot move on suddenly to the great mysteries of our faith. We have to lay the foundation.

Q: Then how are we to proclaim the Gospel, so that this God, who all too often appears hazy to many, shines forth anew in our homes?

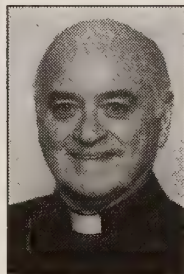
A: We must not always be in the loftiest clouds of mystery. We must have our feet firmly planted on the ground, and together live the joy of being a great family, the great family of the universal church.

... We are all different. I would say that this joy of catholicity with its many different hues is also the joy of beauty.

... The truth is expressed in beauty, and we must be grateful for this beauty and seek to do our utmost to ensure that it is ever present, that it develops and continues to grow. In this way I believe that God will be very concretely present

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



in our midst.

Q: Those of us who trained during the years of the [Second Vatican] Council saw our dreams fail, and we feel somewhat sad.

A: It seems to me very important that our eyes are now open, and can see all that is positive which developed from the Council. I think we have to rediscover the Council's great legacy.

We must combine the great humility of the Crucified One, and the joy of the Risen One, so that we can go ahead joyously and full of hope.

Q: My spiritual director at the seminary told me that I prefer playing football to eucharistic adoration. He implied that this was not good for my vocation.

I feel that sports are an important, even indispensable part of my human life as a priest.

A: Yes. We cannot live in exalted mediation all the time. Perhaps a saint on the last step of his earthly pilgrimage could reach this point, but we normally live with our feet on the ground and our eyes turned toward heaven.

The Lord gives both spiritual and human joys to us. Therefore loving the human things of this earth is not only very human but also very Christian and truly Catholic.

... We should not only love the earth and the beautiful things here that the Lord has given us, but also be grateful because God's light shines on the earth and bathes everything in splendor and beauty.

## Discovering the body's world

Exhibit reveals truth about dignity of human life

"Respect life" moments are all around us and sometimes they present themselves in the most unexpected places.

Such was the case at my recent trip to see Gunther von Hagen's Body Worlds, called "The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies," displayed at Discovery Place in Charlotte.

Even with my love of science and interest in medicine, I had hesitated to make the visit. Because real human bodies, organs and fetuses were on display, I was concerned whether it was going to be done respectfully or not. The deceased men, women and children were, after all, part of the human family — someone's mother, father, sibling or child.

Upon the urging of my daughter, who is pursuing a medical career, and the strong recommendation from a friend, we took the trip.

Due to the preservation technique of plastination, and the artist's clear appreciation for life, the exhibits tastefully told the story of how various people chose to live. The exhibit showed diseased organs next to healthy ones, a black lung of a smoker next to a nonsmoker's lung.

Displayed were examples of clogged arteries, ulcers, blood clots and much more. We can lecture about healthy lifestyles but no spoken word could have the impact of seeing the actual destruction from bad choices and the positive results of healthy decisions.

There was also the sense of awe of how beautifully we are made. The intricate way the blood vessels and nerves are distributed in the body was revealed in a way that would bring a non-believer to his or her Creator.

The bodies were displayed playing basketball, chess and other activities so one could see the way the muscles moved. There was a fullness of life expressed in their "movement," an invitation for us to live each moment with a purpose — because evidence of our own mortality was also shown.

For me the most difficult part of the

### Guest Column

KATHY SCHMUGGE  
GUEST COLUMNIST

trip — yet the most profound pro-life message — came from part of the exhibit with the unborn babies. Having lost three children through miscarriage, my eyes filled with tears as I passed by the perfectly-preserved unborn children of 6, 8 and 12 weeks, who all died through natural causes.

I recalled one woman saying aloud as if making a discovery for the first time, "This is not a blob of tissue."

I walked through the area near a group of college students and a young man was marveling at the tiny fingers and toes belonging to one of the tiny human beings on display. He was standing before the undeniable truth about the dignity of human life and may be forever changed by this revelation.

When I got my composure back, I was drawn to a young woman in her late 20s. Distressed and fighting back emotion, she looked trapped, unable to process what was before her but unable to leave. I went over to her and asked, "This is difficult, isn't it?"

Her tears erupted but she managed to say a quiet, "Yes."

Between sobs, the young woman shared the loss of her pre-born sibling and how her death had impacted that of her own life and her family. It was such an unlikely place for this young woman to proclaim a gospel of life, love and loss.

It became clear that both young and old were walking away from the exhibit with a greater appreciation for the gift of life.

Kathy Schmugge is family life coordinator for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

## A season for giving and receiving

As the end of the year approaches, the spirit of thankfulness and generosity abounds as we celebrate Thanksgiving and the birth of Christ at Christmas. During this time, we make a special effort to be with loved ones and demonstrate our love with gifts to family and friends.

Many in the Diocese of Charlotte also show their love for the Catholic Church at this time with gifts that support their churches, a Catholic school or Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation.

Giving at year end may provide financial benefits too. As you think about your plans for giving, remember that tax laws feature strong incentives to encourage charitable giving.

Those who are 70-and-a-half years or older and required to make minimum distributions from their IRAs (individual retirement account) can take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 again this year. Contributions from your regular IRA or Roth IRA made directly to the church are tax free.

The distribution generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction. So even if you do not itemize your tax return, you receive the benefit.

Distributions can be made in any amount up to \$100,000 and must be completed by Dec 31. Contact your IRA trustee for specific rules and allow three to four weeks to complete the transaction. Other charitable gifts made

before Dec. 31 also may bring you savings at tax time.

Gifts of appreciated assets such as stocks can bring tax savings if you have owned the stock for at least 12 months. An income tax deduction for the current value of the asset becomes available at the time the gift is made and capital gains tax will not be due on the increase in value.

A regular review of estate plans at the end of the year is a good way to include a charitable dimension that will provide future benefits to Catholic causes important to you and your family.

As you plan for the gift-giving season, remember that including charitable gifts can be an extraordinary and heartwarming experience. Gifts to your church, a Catholic school, a Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation strengthen and

### Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



continue Christ's work on earth.

Every gift, regardless of size, is greatly appreciated during this holiday season and throughout the year.

Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org).



# Memo from a paradise on fire

## Working together, we can conquer the flames of evil

Sunday began in its usual way in our town of Malibu, Calif., along the Pacific Ocean — except oddly there was no power. High winds this time of year in Southern California often knock down power lines, and this proved to be the case again.

What was not expected was that the loose power line would dangerously arc and trigger a massive fire in Malibu Canyon. Within minutes the fire was racing toward the ocean, as if in defiant challenge of the sustaining sea itself.

I relish quiet Sunday mornings. Because I was teaching adult catechism later in the day, it was not surprising for me to think of the battle between fire and water raging outside in religious terms.

The furious passion of sin taking on the cleansing and cooling water of baptism, I speculated.

Satan, it seemed, had come to paradise again.

Standing in the way on one side of the canyon road he had chosen was one of the most expensive mansions in the community, perhaps in all the nation — literally built in the style of a castle upon a majestic hillside.

As man's creations go, it seemed an impenetrable fortification. It would be lost in minutes.

Next up for the devilish fire lay Pepperdine University, a Christian university situated upon close to a thousand steeply sloping acres overlooking the Pacific. Many students are attracted to Pepperdine by brochures that make higher education in this

setting seem more aligned with surfing and leisure than Socrates and serious intellectual effort.

The brochures aptly reflect Pepperdine's campus beauty, but they understate its inner goodness.

I think the wretched old deceiver himself has been fooled. Little did the malevolent blaze realize that just the day before the canyon fire, the university community had turned out in great number to consider the social justice of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, whose creative microlending helped bring hope to small shopkeepers and craftspeople creating, as the university nicely put it, "the spark of personal initiative and enterprise necessary to pull themselves out of poverty."

As with most universities, of course, students come to Pepperdine for many reasons — a highly personal curriculum in the undergraduate school is structured around the great books, placing students in conversation with the authors of the finest literature and learning.

The law school where I am privileged to teach has a top-ranked dispute resolution program that strives to remind a culturally litigious society that it is better to forgive and resolve than further stoke dispute.

There are many excellent teachers at the university, but this challenging Sunday, the faculty of greater note would be wearing yellow slickers and helmets and heavy boots. These "visiting faculty" came on red trucks and often

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



from great distances.

But they came with only one lesson plan: "Love thy neighbor."

Miraculously, the firefighters steered the blaze away from thousands of much-relieved students, and thousands more anxious parents watching frightening news reports at a distance. Of course, like the devil himself, wildfire seldom rests in one place very long.

Monday afternoon, as this is written, the fire is now three miles south of the university on the ridge line above our house. Your columnist is taking a short break from joining his neighbors on rooftops spraying water at an inferno from a garden hose.

A humorous sight? Perhaps. An inconsequential gesture? Hardly.

This devil of a fire is no match for neighbors in mutual aid of one another. Oh yes, it may take one or more of our houses, but in the Latin, "Omnia vincit amor" ("Love conquers all").

Translated in an e-mail I just received from a colleague who has lost his home, "Our home is a total loss. But God is more than good and we shall rebuild."

Or as Pope John Paul II reminded us, "In the end, love will be victorious! Let everyone be committed to hastening this victory."

So, excuse me now, I have a place on the hose line.

## Pope says public opinion gets old, but word of God stays true forever

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Public opinion gets old fast, but the word of God stays true forever, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The word of God transcends time" and represents the word of eternal life, he said Nov. 7 at his weekly general audience.

The pope focused his catechesis on the life and work of St. Jerome, a fourth-century theologian who translated the original books of the Bible into Latin, giving birth to the Vulgate Bible.

"Human opinion comes and goes. What is extremely up-to-date today becomes very passe tomorrow," he told more than 20,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

St. Jerome asked that Christians "seek to learn on earth those truths which will remain ever valid in heaven and eternity," the pope said.

Listening to God's word is one way to capture those eternal truths, he said.

The pope said the saint teaches today's Christians that it is important to love God's word and that "to ignore sacred Scripture is to ignore God."

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the teachers of the early church, we now turn to St. Jerome, who was responsible for the Latin version of the Bible known as the Vulgate.

Jerome made the Scriptures the centre of his life, translating the inspired word of God, commenting upon its teaching and, above all, striving to live his life in accordance with its precepts.

Born in Dalmatia in the middle of the fourth century and educated in Rome, he embraced the ascetic life and devoted himself to the study of Hebrew and Greek. After a sojourn in the East, he returned to Rome as secretary to Pope Damasus, who encouraged him in his work of translation.

He then retired to the Holy Land, where he founded monasteries and a hospice for pilgrims in Bethlehem.

Jerome's entire life, his vast erudition and the spiritual wisdom born of his ascetic lifestyle were devoted to the service of God's word, the refutation of heresy and the encouragement of Christian culture.

Let us take to heart the words which this great master of the spiritual life once addressed to St. Paulinus of Nola, and "seek to learn on earth those truths which will remain ever valid in heaven."

# Balancing hope and despair

## Accepting both suffering and glory is way to follow Christ

After the Oct. 9 Republican debate in Michigan, some analysts felt the tone of the presidential contenders was split between painting rosy pictures and being very realistic.

On the overly realistic side were those contenders who had serious concerns about issues like rising costs and their impact on Medicare, social security and employment.

On the overly optimistic side were those who saw a brighter future with lower taxes and higher employment, among other things.

Interestingly, one analyst felt that the overly realistic contenders looked more serious than the optimistic contenders. He intimated that the best way to win American hearts is to be overly positive rather than too realistic.

It is true that life looked at realistically is frightening. Who wants to hear that present wars may never end, our health system is near collapse, our ecological problems are astronomical and disasters await millions of people?

It is equally true that the line between being overly hopeful and overly realistic is very thin.

When does too much optimism cloud real issues, and when does too much realism spawn despair?

Where might we look for our answer?

The life of Christ is a beautiful example of how to blend realism and optimism. Throughout his life, Christ gave his apostles reality checks.

"Remember," he told them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

In other words, don't become overly optimistic and confident.

"You want to be my follower?" Jesus asks his followers. "Then you must leave everything and expect to have nowhere to place your heads at night. Those people you will serve can be like wolves waiting to devour you."

On the other hand, Jesus teaches his apostles that just as he was raised up by his Father, so too will they be raised up. He fills their minds with beautiful, optimistic images: the good shepherd, the poor and hungry lifted up in a new world of justice and goodness.

In balancing reality with images of a bright future, Christ teaches us how to walk the fine line between hope and

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



oftentimes brutal reality.

As Jesus embraced the cross in his life, so must we. Jesus taught us to imitate him in order to cross over to a better life.

Christ's life is God's way of telling us that harsh reality and heavenly hopes are meant to complement each other when seen through the glory of the cross.

Suffering and glory go together.

How we might wish presidential hopefuls would embrace this biblical concept as their platform. But then, they wouldn't be politically correct having God as their guide, would they?

And yet, the great foundations of American tradition are based on the decisions of our founding fathers who made God guiding light.



# In the aftermath

Months after Peruvian quake, cities see little progress in rebuilding

PISCO, Peru (CNS) — At first glance, Freddy Sanchez appears to be one of the lucky ones.

When a magnitude 8 earthquake struck this fishing port, his house remained standing while many of his neighbors' homes and the church across the street collapsed.

But his luck may be running out.

Government officials have said that the soil in the beachfront neighborhood where he lives is unstable, and they might prohibit rebuilding there. Officials have not talked with residents, however, and rumors are rampant.

"This is where my great-grandparents, my grandparents and my parents lived," he said. "I have title to this land, and they can't force me to move."

Sanchez's neighborhood has no running water, and the sewers have backed up, creating a foul-smelling puddle at the end of the street that draws flies and mosquitoes.

"Unfortunately, little progress is

being made in housing. There hasn't been a single house, not even half a house, built in Chincha, Pisco or Ica," said Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica, whose diocese includes those three towns located closest to the quake's epicenter.

"For people to have to live in a tent when they have small children is a calamity," he said.

Some tiny prefabricated houses have been set up on empty lots, but "they are temporary and precarious," he said.

Residents are still trying to rebuild their lives months after the Aug. 15 earthquake killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,000 and damaged or destroyed about 100,000 homes.

Thousands of people still live in tents, either in camps set up by the government or near the places where their houses once stood, where they can keep an eye on the little they have left and ensure that no one takes over their land.

On the main plaza in Pisco, beside the two towers that are all that remain of



CNS PHOTO BY WALTER HUPU

Parishioners attend Mass in the plaza outside an earthquake-destroyed church in Humay, Peru, Aug. 26. The church roof caved in during the Aug. 15 quake.

San Clemente Church, tents also serve as makeshift telephone and Internet booths. Scattered shops around town have reopened, and people sell soft drinks and sundries outside temporary shelters.

"There is a lack of housing, but there is no way of rebuilding the housing until the water and sewer problems are solved," said Father Alfonso Berrade, pastor of San Clemente Parish and director of the Pisco office of Caritas, the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, an umbrella group of Catholic humanitarian aid and development agencies.

Officials are doing a soil survey in Pisco, Father Berrade said. Based on the results, they will decide where to rebuild.

Shortly after the earthquake, there was talk of shifting the main part of the city to more solid ground, but that appears to be impractical, he said.

Many are worried that they might

lose their land rights because they do not have formal title to their lots.

Meanwhile, residents who are going ahead with repairs or erecting makeshift shelters are dismayed by the inflated prices of building materials.

Julio Favre, head of FORSUR, the reconstruction agency set up by the government, has estimated that reconstruction will take two years and cost about \$530 million, about \$330 million of which would be for grants to people who lost their houses.

FORSUR currently has about \$60 million from government funds, loans and international donations, with another \$107 million worth of donations pledged.

Post-earthquake cleanup is going slowly. While some buildings have been demolished, there are still piles of rubble in empty lots and on some streets.

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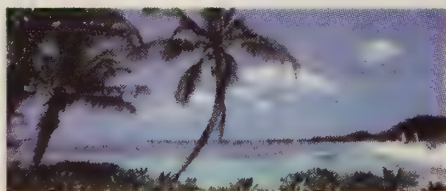
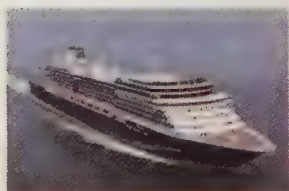
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## Perspectives

Kmiec discusses why  
abortion "is" a religious issue;  
Father Byron chooses "Bella"

| PAGES 14-15

## From heartbreak to happy endings

Annual banquet raises  
funds for Christian  
maternity home

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: For privacy, only  
the client's first name is used in  
this story.*

GREENSBORO — In  
May 2004, Leah walked through  
the doors of Room at the Inn of  
the Carolinas, pregnant and  
alone. Her father had recently  
died, prompting her to drop out  
of college and move in with a  
boyfriend, then with friends.

Soon afterward, she learned  
she was pregnant. A counselor  
referred her to Room at the Inn  
of the Carolinas, a Christian  
maternity home with facilities in  
Greensboro and Bluffton, S.C.

See ROOM, page 5

## In gratitude

Parish hall named in  
honor of Bishop Curlin

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CLEMMONS — Bishop  
Emeritus William G. Curlin's  
tireless service to the Diocese  
of Charlotte is never done.

At 80, he still travels the  
diocese and beyond, celebrating  
Masses and leading retreats.

And now a building will  
stand in honor of his inspiration  
and faith, thanks to a parish  
priest who appreciates his  
years of service.

It was in 1994, after 20

See CURLIN, page 6

## TACKLING the IRAQ DILEMMA Bishops finalize statement on situation of war



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

U.S. bishops, including Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran (center) of Oklahoma City, pray at the opening of their fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12.

## Bishops urge new directions in policy, aid

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE — Some  
U.S. policymakers "seem to  
fail to recognize sufficiently  
the reality and failures in  
Iraq and the imperative for  
new directions," warned the  
U.S. Conference of Catholic  
Bishops in a new statement on  
transition in Iraq.

"As pastors and teachers,  
we are convinced that the  
current situation in Iraq remains  
unacceptable and unsustainable,"  
the document says.

The statement issued

See BISHOPS, page 8

### MORE COVERAGE

page 9 | Aroundup of statements,  
votes and other topics from the  
U.S. bishops' fall meeting

## From Mooresville to Peru

St. Therese Church parishioners assist many in  
Alto Cayma community

MOORESVILLE —  
Catholics in Mooresville are  
reaching out to help a Peruvian  
community in need.

Bob and Betty Edelen,  
parishioners of St. Therese  
Church in Mooresville, recently  
delivered needed supplies to the  
people of Alto Cayma, Peru.

During their August  
visit to the South American  
country, the Edelens brought  
along two computers, dental  
supplies and blankets made by

children in the parish's faith  
formation class.

Alto Cayma is a community  
comprised of 35 settlements  
and about 31,000 people on  
the outskirts of the southern  
highland city of Arequipa,  
Peru's second largest city.

Arequipa, 630 miles south  
of the capital of Lima, is



COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Edelen, Gloria Hintz and Betty Edelen stand with a family in Alto Cayma, Peru, in August.

See PERU, page 7

### Culture Watch

Book decodes frescoes;  
history of 'ubiquitous' hymn

| PAGES 10-11

### In Our Schools

Long-range study plan for  
schools; 5k fundraiser

| PAGE 13

### Soaked in despair

Mexican flood victims in  
need of assistance

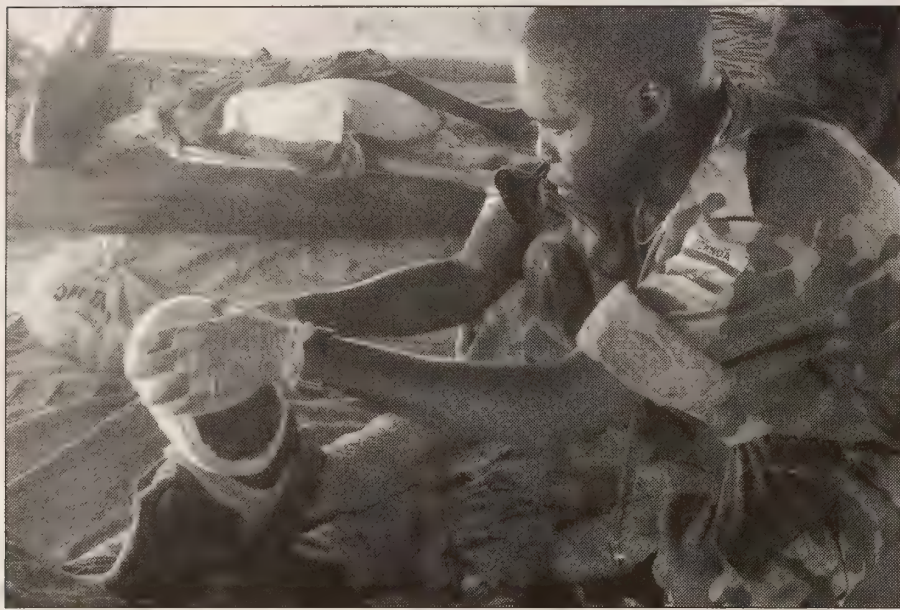
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## IN HARM'S WAY, OUT OF HELP'S REACH



CNS PHOTOS

Above: A Ugandan soldier from the African Union cares for an infant, wounded during fighting, at a makeshift hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia, Nov. 8. Conflict between Islamic insurgents and allied Ethiopian-Somali government troops has escalated in Mogadishu, sending some 88,000 people fleeing the capital.

Right: A displaced Somali woman walks through a camp destroyed by fire near Mogadishu, Somalia, Nov. 3.



## Increasing violence in Somalia traps residents, blocks aid

MOGADISHU, Somalia (CNS) — Increasing violence in Somalia's capital has trapped residents as Catholic and other aid agencies call for an end to the humanitarian catastrophe.

Doctors Without Borders told IRIN, the U.N. news agency, that many residents in Mogadishu have no safe place to go as the conflict between Islamic insurgents and allied Ethiopian-Somali government troops escalates.

The international medical organization said Nov. 7 it was struggling to help residents, but that "some have bled to death as it was too dangerous to move them to hospitals," IRIN reported.

"But Mogadishu's residents need more than medical care — they need safety," Doctors Without Borders said.

Doctors Without Borders "calls upon all warring factions to refrain from indiscriminate attacks on civilians and to respect international humanitarian law," IRIN noted.

News of increased tension came after Catholic and other international aid agencies said in a late-October statement that they "cannot respond effectively to the crisis because access and security are deteriorating dramatically at a time when needs are increasing."

Among the signatories of the statement were the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, the aid agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of

England and Wales; Caritas Somalia, the local affiliate of the Catholic umbrella organization Caritas Internationalis; and Trocaire, the aid agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

"There is an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe in south-central Somalia," the agencies said.

"Tens of thousands of people are currently fleeing violence in Mogadishu, adding to the up to 335,000 people already needing immediate lifesaving assistance in Mogadishu and the Shabeelle regions," they said.

The agencies said they were "struggling to deliver assistance through Somali partners in IDP (internally displaced persons) settlement areas," but were constrained by "harassment, intimidation, roadside bombs and land mines," as well as security checkpoints.

Somalia has not had an effective government in more than 15 years. Internal violence compounded by famine, disease and poverty has devastated the African country.

In June 2006, the fundamentalist Union of Islamic Courts, which runs a parallel government to the Somali transitional government, gained control of Mogadishu and parts of southern Somalia.

Since then, conflicts involving Somali government forces, Islamic insurgents and international peacekeeping forces have intensified.

## Religious leaders sign document urging compassion to animals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders gathered in Washington Nov. 7 to sign a document urging people of faith to make compassion to animals an integral part of their religious teachings.

The document, "A Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion," says in part that animals "have intrinsic value as part of God's creation and are entitled to live lives free of cruelty and exploitation."

The gathering took place in a caucus room on Capitol Hill and was hosted by Best Friends Animal Society, a Utah-based organization that runs one of the nation's largest sanctuaries for abused and abandoned animals.

The document was signed by members of at least 20 faith traditions, including Catholic, Baptist, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Quaker representatives.

They called on people of faith to stop wearing fur, reduce meat consumption and buy only from farms that use humane

methods, as opposed to practices such as confining chickens in small cages and raising livestock in factory farms.

"Like all of God's creation, animals are held to be sacred living creatures that should be cared for," said Father Larry Evans, a Catholic priest who was among the signers.

"Catholics are called to follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi, the church's patron of animals and the environment, who a millennium ago set the high standard for animal compassion," said Father Evans, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Jersey City, N.J.

Officials of the Best Friends Animal Society said they plan to recruit volunteers to take that message across the country.

A statement from the organization said it was prompted to convene the religious leaders by the results of a poll it commissioned in 2006 that showed 89 percent of Americans feel "we have a moral obligation to protect the animals in our care."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir* will offer a free concert celebrating its 27th anniversary Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. For more information, call Henry Wallace at (704) 575-7507.

CHARLOTTE — Several *Adult Bible Study Groups* meet at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The Gospel of St. Matthew is studied Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Book of Acts is studied Mondays, 9:30-11 a.m. The Book of Exodus is studied Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. The Men's Bible Study meets Wednesdays following the 7 a.m. Mass. For more information, call Susan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 210.

CHARLOTTE — A *World AIDS Day commemoration* will take place Nov. 30 at 4 p.m. A reading of names of individuals who have died of AIDS will occur in Polk Park at the corner of Trade and Tryon streets in uptown Charlotte. The public is invited to attend and participate by remembering persons they have known who died of this disease. Participating AIDS service organizations include House of Mercy, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, CHARM

Project, CW Williams Health Center, the Latino Outreach Program and Metrolina AIDS Project. For more information, contact Marjorie Storch at (704) 825-4711 ext. 3.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host "*Men's Spirituality*" the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. For more information, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875 or e-mail [mjl@seafoods.com](mailto:mjl@seafoods.com).

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with "*Lunchtime Spirituality*" at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic Dec. 13 will be Hans Urs von Balthasar's "Unless You Become Like This Child." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 18. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon Streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church celebrates a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at [mshuey2@nc.rr.com](mailto:mshuey2@nc.rr.com) or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Cardinal says Israeli restrictions on visas remain problem for church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israeli visa restrictions and other controls on church workers are still a serious problem for the church in the Holy Land, said a top Vatican official.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, said Palestinian and some foreign "clergy, religious women and seminarians have to submit to ironclad rules in order to visit relatives and friends" in the Palestinian territories, to which Israel controls entry.

After an Oct. 27-Nov. 2 trip to Israel and the West Bank, the cardinal told the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, there is some sense that change might be on the horizon, though "nobody knows the real solutions."

"But the hour has come to ease the restrictions. The visa problems remain serious," he said in the interview

published in the paper's Nov. 9 edition.

The Campaign for the Right of Entry/Re-entry to the Occupied Palestinian Territories recently claimed that "Israel's regulation of entry into the occupied (Palestinian) territories by foreign nationals remains arbitrary, abusive and internationally unlawful. Even clergymen are not immune."

Some Catholic bishops and religious have lamented the lack of freedom of movement caused by permit and visa issues.

Cardinal Kasper said he visited with Israeli President Shimon Peres and other Israeli and Jewish authorities. He said they have "taken to heart finding a solution" to this problem quickly.

The cardinal said his meeting with Peres was "very positive" and that the president told him "Christians are welcome" in Israel.

## Pope to visit New York, Washington in April, papal nuncio confirms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will visit Washington and New York April 15-20.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, confirmed the dates of the papal trip and announced the pope's itinerary in remarks Nov. 12 at the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore.

The official title of the upcoming papal trip is "Apostolic Visit to the United States of America and to the Seat of the United Nations."

According to the archbishop, the pope will arrive in Washington April 15 and will receive an official welcome at the White House April 16. That afternoon, coincidentally his 81st birthday, he will address the U.S. bishops.

The following day he will celebrate Mass at the new Washington Nationals baseball stadium in Washington. Later that day he will meet with directors of Catholic universities and colleges and diocesan educational leaders at

The Catholic University of America in Washington and then he is to attend an interreligious meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

On April 18, the pope will be in New York to address the United Nations in the morning and attend an ecumenical meeting in the afternoon. The following day, the third anniversary of his election as pope, he will concelebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the morning and meet with youths and seminarians in the afternoon.

While in New York the pope will visit ground zero on the morning of April 20. In the afternoon, he will celebrate Mass at Yankee Stadium, which will be the final event of his U.S. trip.

Archbishop Sambi likened Pope Benedict's visit to the United States next year to "a sign that the spirit of the Lord is with its church"; he also said he hoped the visit would provide a "new spring" and "new Pentecost" for the Catholic Church in this country.

the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or Deacon Jim Hamlik at (704) 543-767, ext. 1040.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The *Gaston-area Interfaith Thanksgiving Service* will be held Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Basilica on the campus of Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GASTONIA — All are invited to *St. Michael Church's Free Thanksgiving Celebration*, Nov. 22, 12-3 p.m. The event will be held in the parish center, 708 St. Michael's Lane. Transportation is available for anyone who needs a ride. Meal deliveries are available for those who cannot come. Please call the church office at (704) 867-6212.

BELMONT — A new study series, "*Living the Questions 2.0*," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will have Christmas Tea at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. "Genesis 12-36: The Patriarchal Stories" will be studied beginning Nov. 27. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., an Ignatian-staffed parish, will host a *Reception for Alumni of Jesuit Universities, Colleges and Parishes* Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. The reception will provide an opportunity to expand our connection with those who have experienced Ignatian spirituality and to reignite friendships or make new ones. To RSVP and for more information call Rosemary Hyman at (704) 664-3992 or email at rhyman@sainttherese.net.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Primacy of Christ (Bonaventure)*" Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering exploration into the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Beyond borders



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Hispanic Catholics carry the Mexican flag and an Our Lady of Guadalupe image into St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Nov. 29, 2004, as part of the "Antorcha Guadalupeana" torch run.

## International torch run comes from Mexico to diocese this month

CHARLOTTE — Runners will soon be carrying a symbol of unity through the Diocese of Charlotte.

For the sixth consecutive year, a group of young people from New York City has organized the "Antorcha Guadalupeana." This international torch run is meant to unite families who have been divided by the U.S.-Mexico border through their Catholic faith and their love for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The torch run began in Mexico City at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in October and will culminate in New York City Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The group has carried the torch from city to city, participating in Masses in honor of Our Lady and sharing with the community the concerns of immigrants

in the United States.

The torch will visit four churches in the Diocese of Charlotte: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte, Nov. 26; St. Joseph Church in Newton, Nov. 27; St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, Nov. 28; and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, Nov. 29.

Each visit begins with the reception of the torch around 6 p.m., followed by Mass and a presentation. The following morning, runners from the community accompany the core group to the next stop. The torch visits are open to the public and the presentations are bilingual.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information, call Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott at (704) 370-3269.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 18 — 2 p.m.  
Catholic Heritage Society Mass  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Dec. 2 — 5 p.m.  
Affirmation of N.C. Catholic/Lutheran Covenant  
Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Winston-Salem



## Honoring veterans



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders raise the U.S. flag outside St. Michael School in Gastonia during a moment of silence as part of a Veterans Day celebration Nov. 12. Veterans Day, observed as a holiday this year Nov. 12, is celebrated Nov. 11 of every year to honor all those who have served in the armed forces. During the school gathering, pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students joined in prayer, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem. Principal Joseph Puceta spoke to the students about the holiday's history, as well as the sacrifice and dedication of U.S. veterans.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem pray the Our Father around the flag pole during a Veterans Day service Nov. 12. Student council officers and class representatives led the school in prayer. Eighth-grader Lexi Ritz sang the national anthem and kindergarten student Owen Peacock sang "God Bless America." Two students, who are also Boy Scouts, raised the American flag.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve's 108th Training Command IET (Initial Entry Training) unit in Charlotte serve as a color guard during Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte on Veterans Day Nov. 12. The 108th is one of several Army Reserve training divisions in the Army's structure. Between 2001 and 2007, more than 2,000 soldiers from the 108th have mobilized and deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

## For the least among us



COURTESY PHOTO

Donors to the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll sale are pictured with members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 12266 outside a Wal-Mart in Forest City Oct. 20. Proceeds go toward the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. (Least Among My Brethren) to support the mentally handicapped. So far this year, the council's L.A.M.B. campaign has raised approximately \$7,000. Pictured are (from left): L.A.M.B. chairman Joe Detrano, donor High Greene, Knight Chris Jones, donor Paul Greene and Knight Matthew Sarate.

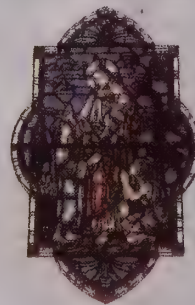
Founded in 1998, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 12266 at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City is among the Knights' 12,000 local councils, primarily in the United States. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded by Father Michael McGivney in 1882.

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FROM THE COVER

# Room at the Inn nurtures mothers and children

ROOM, from page 1

"At first, it was humbling to be living in a group home," Leah said for Room at the Inn of the Carolinas' annual report. "But it was a real home for me, a new family."

With assistance from Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, Leah returned to school and she graduated with honors from Bennett College in May 2006. Today, Leah and her son reside in Bluffton, S.C., where she is the house manager at Room at the Inn of the Lowcountry and is pursuing a dual master's degree at Savannah State College.

Leah's story is one of many that could have ended in heartbreak, and instead has a happy ending. Children — 143 to be exact — whose lives could have been tragically cut short by abortion have been born to loving mothers with bright futures.

Several of these stories were shared at the eighth annual benefit banquet for Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, held in Greensboro Nov. 8. About 400 people attended the fundraiser, one of the organizations two major fundraisers held each year.

"The mothers are scared, without a friend in the world," said Marlene DuBose, a member of the board of directors. "Room at the Inn fills these women with hope."

Since May 2001, Room at the Inn of the Carolinas has served a total of 401

clients, including 151 in-house pregnant clients; 143 infants; and approximately 65 pregnant women who had special service needs, said Elizabeth Hedgecock, associate director.

Room at the Inn of the Carolinas is three years into a five-year plan to receive national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, said O. Albert Hodges, chief executive officer.

When Room at the Inn of the Carolinas receives accreditation, it will be the only nationally accredited Christian maternity home in the United States, he said.

Case management and counseling are provided onsite for clients, who are required to participate in an extensive life-skills educational program. Childcare is available for clients attending educational and vocational programs; transportation to medical and social service appointments is also provided.

About 20 percent of clients have other children when they apply for assistance. Residents with one or two children, if both are under the age of 6, are eligible for housing.

Approximately half of the clients who come to Room at the Inn of the Carolinas have had at least one previous pregnancy aborted.

"The realization of the life that they lost and the sorrow that they suffered because of the abortion is one of the reasons that these women have chosen to give life to the current pregnancy," said Hedgecock.

Although all residents are required to undergo adoption counseling, about two



COURTESY PHOTO

Several of Room at the Inn of the Carolinas' mothers are pictured with their children.

out of every 12 women choose adoption, Hedgecock said. Room at the Inn of the Carolinas provides not only shelter for mothers and their children, but also hope for their futures.

Of those clients who have completed high school, approximately 50 percent go on to complete technical training or to work on their college degrees, Hedgecock said.

Minors generally return to their families and complete their GEDs or return to high school, depending on whether they chose parenting or an adoption plan.

Eighty-one percent of mothers increase their income and approximately 80 percent have full-time jobs capable of supporting their families. Every one of

the maternity home graduates last year transitioned to permanent housing.

"Considering that most of our clients are homeless when they come to us, this is a great achievement," said Hedgecock.

"As proud as I am of my son and my college degree, I think my biggest accomplishment is realizing that God has a plan for Gabriel and me," Leah said.

"Sometimes the future can seem bleak, but Room at the Inn allowed me to see Christ's love for me in ways I never dreamed of. There is a God, and I know he loves me," she said.

## WANT MORE INFO?

[www.roomattheinnofthecarolinas.org](http://www.roomattheinnofthecarolinas.org) or call (336) 275-0206.

**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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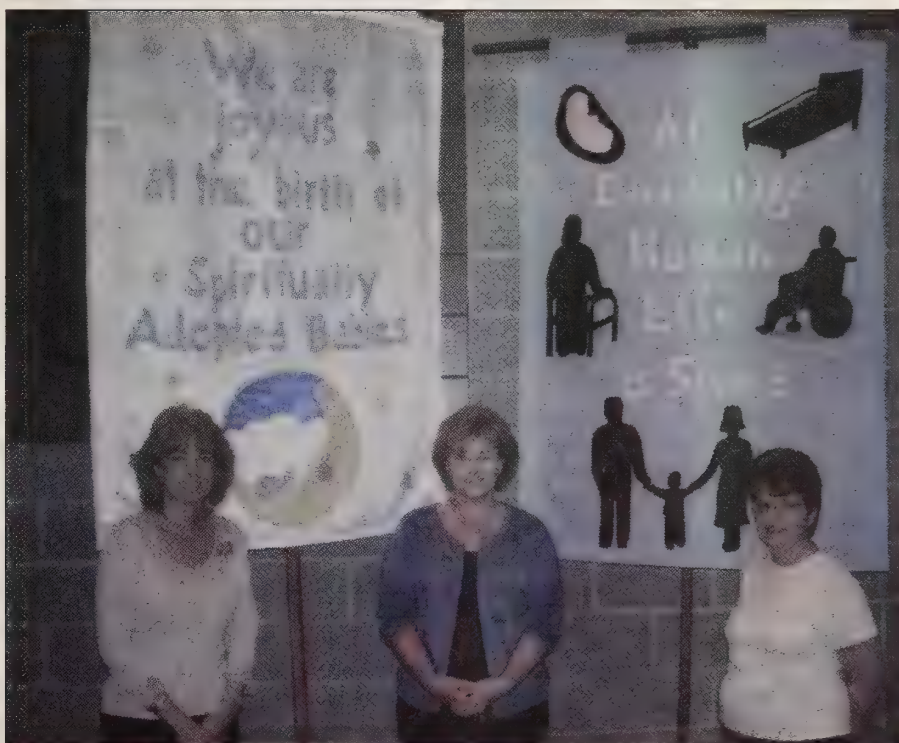
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## Signs of life



COURTESY PHOTO

Marjory Dury, Sandy Rolf and Dianne Huckbody, members of the Seams of Faith ministry at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, stand beside the two pro-life banners they designed and sewed for display in the church during Respect Life Month (October). Parishioners expressed appreciation for the banners and for the work and talents of the ministry.



## One of the tribe



Herr receives a Pendleton blanket from Dr. Carmalate Monteith during a tribal council meeting of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee Oct. 8. Also pictured are tribal members (from left) Walker, Dinah Grant and Mary Wachacha.

## Retired multicultural worker made honorary Cherokee

**CHEROKEE** — Mary Herr, retired Native American multicultural worker for the diocese, has been made an honorary member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Herr received her honorary membership during the tribal council meeting in Cherokee Oct. 8.

During the meeting, Herr was given Cherokee name — “Meli utseli,” “Mary, she is here” — as well as a Pendleton blanket with Cherokee symbols.

“It was a great surprise and honor that I greatly appreciated,” said Herr.

Herr, 65, retired June 30 as regional faith formation consultant and Native American multicultural worker for the diocese’s Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

She began work as a community educator and paralegal supervisor on the Qualla Boundary, the Cherokee Indian reservation, in 1978. She later continued her community-educator work as a staff

member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on the Boundary from 1981 to 1991.

Her paralegal experience allowed her to become the Qualla Boundary’s first Guardian ad litem, a children’s advocate. She later assumed the position of Native American multicultural worker while assisting with administrative work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and St. Joseph Church in Bryson City.

In 2000, she added another part-time position as regional faith formation consultant for the vicariate.

During her service, she tried to help people learn more about Native American culture, and helped develop the “Catholics and Cherokees” conference, held for three years in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate to allow the two groups learn more about each other.

Although retired, she continues her work with organizations on the Qualla Boundary.

## Catechists study tools for better faith formation

**MORGANTON** — Faith formation teachers in the Diocese of Charlotte are learning how to “assess for success.”

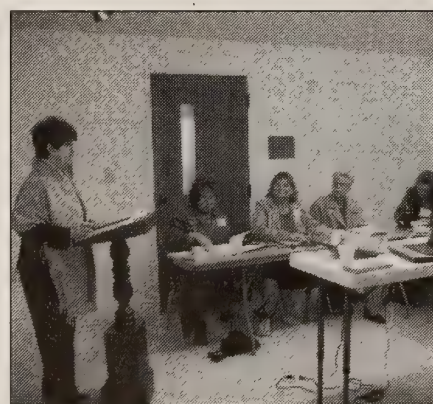
Diana Dudoit Raiche of the National Catholic Educational Association led a seminar titled “Assess for Success: Using IFG to Plan Adult Faith Formation Programs” at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Nov. 8.

The seminar was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation.

IFG, or Information for Growth, is an assessment tool that surveys adult faith literacy and spiritual growth. It helps parish catechetical leaders plan for or improve adult faith formation programs according to identified strengths and challenges of a particular group of adults.

“IFG is scientific instrument that delves deep into the literacy, background and understanding of a select group — for example, catechists or a pastoral council,” said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte.

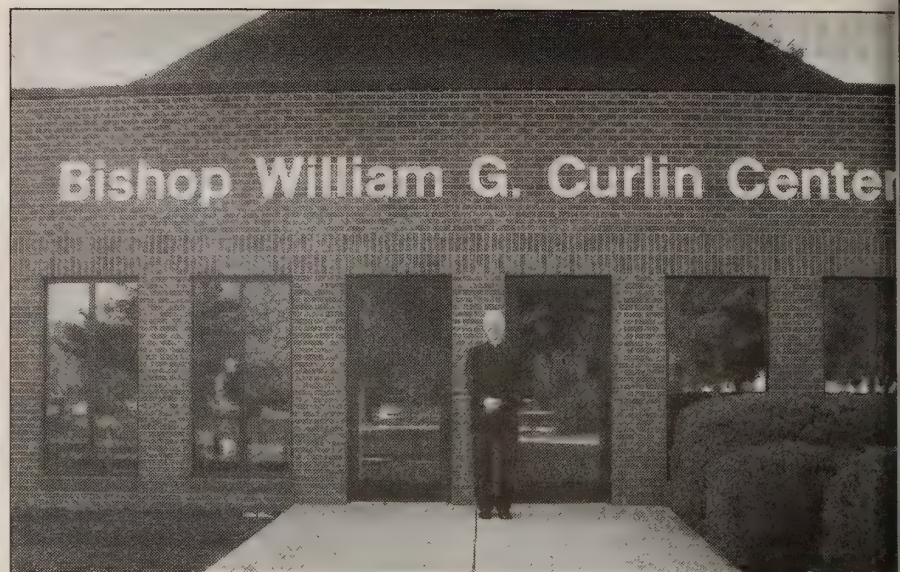
“It helps identify real needs instead of planning faith formation programs using



Diana Dudoit Raiche speaks to catechists at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Nov. 8.

hypothetical ideas or the likes, dislikes or preferences of the group,” he said.

Raiche, executive director of the National Catholic Educational Association’s Department of Religious Education, is a frequent presenter for catechetical and liturgical conferences, diocesan workshops and parish adult enrichment events.



Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin is pictured in front of the Bishop William G. Curlin Faith Formation Center at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Nov. 11.

## Parish hall named in Bishop Curlin’s honor

**CURLIN**, from page 1

years as a Benedictine, that Father Michael Buttner made the transition to ministry as a full-time diocesan priest.

“Bishop Curlin incardinated me and immediately made me pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenior,” Father Buttner said. “He believed in me before I believed in myself.”

In 2001, Bishop Curlin asked Father Buttner to assume the leadership of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, a rapidly growing parish. Today, 1,600 families make up the parish registry.

The request came with one very long string: Father Buttner was instructed to build a new church. He accepted both of Bishop Curlin’s mandates and set to work.

More than four years later, the task was accomplished. Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the new 1,250-seat church Nov. 27, 2005, with Bishop Curlin presiding.

With the construction of the new church, the original building was put

into service as a faith formation center named the Bishop William G. Curlin Faith Formation Center.

After nearly two years of patient fundraising and waiting, the brass lettering for the center’s façade finally arrived this past summer and the name of the center is now on display for all passers-by to see.

Bishop Curlin got a chance to see the lettering, as well as a dedication plaque and his portrait hanging in the center, during a recent visit to Holy Family Church.

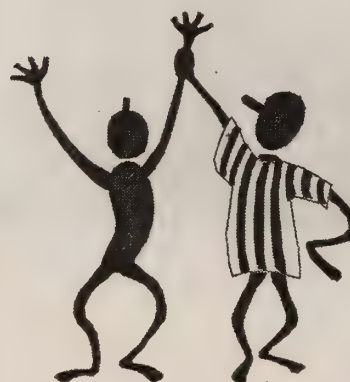
Bishop Curlin celebrated two Masses Nov. 11 to help with the parish’s Priests Retirement and Benefits Collection, a trip he makes each year.

“Here is an 80-year-old man who could be at home relaxing, and he comes 75 miles to serve two Masses,” said Father Buttner. “Best of all, we went over our parish goal.”

Following the initial Priests Retirement and Benefits Collection taken up Sept. 8-9, Holy Family Church fell short of its assessed goal.

But after the second appeal weekend the total collection was \$39,610, well above the parish’s \$35,000 assessment.

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## St. Therese Church members assist many in Peru community

PERU, from page 1

almost 8,000 feet above sea level. Many residents have fled to Alto Cayma from rough mountain conditions.

With few employable skills, many survive by performing manual labor, earning a few dollars a day.

But the work is uncertain and job competition is fierce. Finding daily food is a primary goal for most residents. Children are often left alone while their parents work.

The Edelens were met in Peru by James and Gloria Hintz of Huntersville, who are part-time residents of Alto Cayma, and by Father Alex Busuttil, a priest in Alto Cayma.

Father Busuttil, a native of Malta and member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, started mission work in Alto Cayma more than 10 years ago to address the population's needs for steady work, childcare and places of worship.

He was inspired by his work with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta to serve the poor and, with the help of donations from St. Therese Church and other organizations, he has accomplished much in the last several years.

The community now has a medical clinic, which in June served its 10,000th patient; as well as a pharmacy, childcare center and a new church — Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, where Mass is celebrated seven times each weekend.

The donated items the Edelens brought from St. Therese Church were delivered to the church and then distributed as needed.

Another aspect of the Edelens' visit was to see how prior contributions from

St. Therese Church were being utilized.

The couple visited 32 of the 34 homes to which donations had been dispersed.

The relationship between Father Busuttil and St. Therese Church began in 2000.

After meeting Father Busuttil during a Rotary Club visit to Alto Cayma in April 2000 — part of a tour of Peruvian cities in search of potential service projects — James and Gloria Hintz became dedicated to helping the priest in his work.

They raised awareness and funds for people in Alto Cayma, as well as helped found Alto Cayma's Cardmaking Vocational Center, a unique work ministry that now employs 24 women.

The Hintzes shared their ministry with their physician, Dr. Michelle Ong of Mooresville, also a parishioner of St. Therese Church, who spread word about the needs in Alto Cayma.

Parishioners from St. Therese Church regularly visit Alto Cayma, bringing supplies, donations and letters to sponsored families.

During their visit, the Edelens toured the Hintzes' Cardmaking Vocational Center, where the women earn decent wages as compared to other jobs in the city.

The Edelens also participated in a "food run," during which containers of soup and rice were taken to distribution points and individual homes.

They also visited a local police station, where the police were in the process of assembling a shrine to St. Rose of Lima, the patron of police and military.

The Edelens donated the funds to finish the task.

Contributing to this story was Nickell Ceraldi and Catholic News Service.

## Driven to donate



COURTESY PHOTO

*A parishioner of St. Therese Church in Mooresville donates to the parish's food and coat drive for Mooresville Christian Mission, held Nov. 10-11.*

*The annual drive was sponsored by the parish's Community Life Commission.*

*Pictured on the truck are Leo Fahey, pastoral council member; Jesuit Father Vincent Curtin, pastor; Tracy Pratt-Dixon, Community Life Commission chairwoman; Melanie Conklin and her mother Melissa Conklin, pastoral council president; and Jim Green, pastoral council member.*

*Donations to the drive filled the 16-foot truck. Mooresville Christian Mission is nonprofit organization that assists the less fortunate.*

## Peruvian Catholic university shares designs to strengthen adobe homes

PACHACUTEC, Peru (CNS) — Higinia Rupay remembers her terror as the ground began to heave and bricks from the neighbor's wall crashed through the flimsy roof of her home.

She rushed into the street, fearing that her simple adobe house would not withstand the magnitude 8 earthquake that struck Peru's southern coast Aug. 15.

By the time the tremors stopped, many houses in this tiny farming community, about 150 miles south of Lima, had been reduced to rubble. Hers showed no damage.

The secret to the house's strength is hidden in the walls, where researchers from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru are testing a system that uses wire mesh to reinforce the corners of the building, typically the weakest part of an adobe house.

More than 80,000 homes were destroyed and more than 40,000 were damaged seriously in the earthquake,

according to Peru's National Civil Defense Institute. Most were made of adobe.

Wider use of wire mesh reinforcement might have saved more of the structures, and engineers from the university hope that people can be encouraged to rebuild using an even sturdier design to protect houses the next time an earthquake strikes.

"In Peru, as in many countries, a large percentage of people live in mud-brick houses because they have no alternative," engineer Marcial Blondet, dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the university, said.

"But if the mud has not been baked, it is very weak. It breaks without warning, and often those fractures lead to complete collapse," said Blondet. The place where people should feel most secure becomes a death trap, he said.

Adobe houses are often poorly constructed, and walls are likely to separate at the corners, according to engineering professor Daniel Quiun. So

in 1998 and 1999, when the researchers began testing reinforcement methods, they looked for houses with design flaws.

Researchers trained a local brick mason to attach wire mesh panels to the adobe walls at the corners and around doorways of a particular house. That house and another about 15 miles away withstood a smaller quake in 2003 as well as the one in August, although neighboring houses were reduced to rubble.

"We were sorry to see so much destruction, but happy that the design worked," Quiun said.

While the reinforcement does not necessarily mean the house will withstand a strong earthquake, the mesh is designed to keep the walls from collapsing, giving the occupants 20-30 seconds to get out of the building. The researchers also have found ways to build adobe houses that are even more earthquake resistant.

Some of those designs have been tested in the university's engineering laboratory, where small test models of adobe houses are placed on a platform that is shaken to simulate earthquakes of different magnitudes.

In one of the strongest models, the

bricks are formed around a lattice of bamboo-like cane.

Another involves virtually wrapping the house with a plastic mesh that is tied in place with cords laid across the bricks as the walls are built. The researchers have designed a simple instruction manual illustrating the technique and hope government officials encourage people to use that design.

The plastic mesh is more expensive than wire, but Peruvian President Alan Garcia has promised \$2,000 to every family whose home was destroyed in the earthquake. That would be enough to build a simple, four-room, reinforced house measuring about 540 square feet.

Offering a foolproof design is only half the battle. The challenge is to get the information into people's hands and convince them to use it.

The university is teaming up with the international humanitarian aid agency CARE to introduce the new design, and the researchers hope the national and local governments will support the effort.

"Earthquakes are going to keep happening" in Peru, Quiun said. "We have to be prepared."



# U.S. bishops issue statement on Iraq, urge new directions

BISHOPS, from page 1

Nov. 13 by the conference president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., reiterates the bishops' insistence that the transition of U.S. forces out of Iraq should take into account moral issues, such as minimizing the loss of human life, addressing the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the situation of refugees and the protection of human rights, especially religious freedom.

The bishops agreed to have Bishop Skylstad issue a statement on their behalf, a common approach for the conference when dealing with urgent issues.

A statement from the conference as a whole would have required a more formal amendment and approval process not suited to quick turnaround during the annual fall meeting.

The statement bemoans the "political and partisan stalemate in Washington" that it described as a parallel to the "dangerous political stalemate" that blocks reconciliation in Iraq.

It also includes a question-and-answer supplement that describes in greater detail the USCCB positions on action in Iraq, on withdrawal of troops, on fighting terrorism and on the treatment of religious minorities in Iraq, refugees and U.S. military personnel and their families.

"As pastors, we have called for bipartisan action for almost two years," it said. "Our country needs a new direction to reduce the war's deadly toll and to bring our people together to deal with the conflict's moral and human dimensions."

While not suggesting specific political, economic or military strategies or particular tactics, the bishops said in the statement that they wish to share the church's moral tradition to help inform policy choices. Church teaching on war and peace "offers hard questions, not easy answers," it said. "Our nation must now focus more on the ethics of exit than on the ethics of intervention."

Among the moral questions it raises are: "How can we minimize the further loss of human lives?"; "What actions will do the most good and least harm?"; "What elements of a responsible transition are attainable?"; "What are the financial costs and global consequences of continued war and occupation?"; "How can our nation effectively counter the perversion of religion and ideologies that support terrorism?"

It mentions Iraq's neighbors, saying collaboration with Syria and Iran is "critically important for bringing some measure of stability to Iraq."

Resolving other conflicts, such as that between Israel and Palestine, also is critical to stability in the region, it said.

Another section touches on "a neglected policy priority ... the dire situation of refugees outside the country, internally displaced persons within Iraq, Christians and other vulnerable minorities."

It notes that "a staggering 2 million refugees have fled Iraq; another 2 million

Iraqis are internally displaced. The U.S. should immediately make more substantial commitments to Iraqi refugees by expanding missions, eliminating roadblocks to resettlement, and supporting countries in the region burdened with war-related refugee populations."

It said extensive aid should be provided to internally displaced persons and that the protection and promotion of human rights, especially religious freedom, remain critically important.

The statement also touched on military actions, in which "ethical norms require protecting civilians, using proportionate and discriminate force, rejecting torture and fighting terrorism with nonmilitary means and the legitimate use of force when necessary."

That is "morally essential," especially in the fight against terrorism, it said.

The effects of continued occupation of Iraq on military personnel, their families and the nation also should be considered as a moral issue, the statement said. The human, medical, mental health and social costs of military action carry a moral obligation, as does the need to provide for conscientious objection, it said.

All Catholics and others were urged to pray for peace and those most affected by the war.

"All of us must struggle with these moral questions, but in a particular way our conference and individual bishops will continue to engage policymakers on the moral and human dimensions of this conflict," it said.

"We pray and hope that policymakers will begin to work together on a bipartisan basis to bring an end to this war and occupation at the earliest opportunity consistent with the limited goal of a responsible transition and the protection of human lives — Iraqi and American," the statement concluded.

At a Nov. 11 workshop on Iraq, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the bishops' international policy committee, told bishops that the U.S. church's goals for transition in that country are more modest than they were two years ago.

"We focus now on a morally and politically demanding, but carefully limited goal of responsible transition aimed at addressing the humanitarian crisis in Iraq; the refugee crisis in the region; human rights, especially religious freedom; and the need to rebuild the country," he said.

He summarized the USCCB public efforts on Iraq, ranging from public statements as long ago as 2002, when they warned that waging war against Iraq would not meet the conditions of Catholic teaching for the just use of military force. Since then, the bishops have made repeated statements as a conference and sent letters to political leaders about how transition from war to peace should be handled.

Most recently, Bishop Wenski sent a Sept. 27 letter to members of Congress, the secretaries of the Defense Department and State Department and the national



CNS PHOTO BY SABAH AL-BAZEE, REUTERS

Residents gather at the scene of a bomb attack in Tikrit, Iraq, about 110 miles north of Baghdad, Oct. 8. A suicide truck bomber killed three people and wounded 13 at a police checkpoint, police said.

security adviser, noting "with alarm" the political stalemate about Iraq in Washington. It focused on the "dire situation of refugees, internally displaced persons, Christians and other vulnerable minorities in Iraq."

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired

archbishop of Washington, visited Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria in July on a fact-finding mission about the living conditions of the more than 2 million Iraqi refugees in those countries.

In October, USCCB representatives met with more than two dozen members of Congress in an off-the-record meeting to discuss moral questions related to U.S. policy in Iraq.

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- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area — plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
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## MEETING AT A GLANCE

At their fall general meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops:

- ✓ Received details of Pope Benedict XVI's April 15-20 visit to the United States.
- ✓ Authorized a new statement on Iraq that says some U.S. policymakers "seem to fail to recognize sufficiently the reality and failures in Iraq and the imperative for new directions."
- ✓ Elected Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago as their new president, and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., as vice president
- ✓ Heard a briefing on an ongoing study of the "causes and context" of clerical sexual abuse.
- ✓ Voted to draft a brief policy statement on embryonic stem-cell research and a pastoral document on reproductive technologies.
- ✓ Approved a \$147.7 million budget for 2008 and a 16 percent reduction in the diocesan assessment that funds the USCCB.
- ✓ Issued the 2008 version of their quadrennial "Faithful Citizenship" election statement.
- ✓ Approved legislation specifying when a bishop must get the consent of his diocesan finance council and college of consultors before certain financial transactions or commitments. The legislation needs Vatican approval.
- ✓ Approved three liturgy related documents concerning music, celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, and revised readings during Lent.
- ✓ OK'd a curriculum framework for catechetical materials for high school students.
- ✓ Approved a document on stewardship and teenagers.

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# Documents and decisions

## Papal trip, Iraq, politics, liturgy, new president top USCCB meeting

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The announcement of dates and locations for Pope Benedict XVI's U.S. visit next year highlighted the U.S. bishops' Nov. 12-15 fall general meeting in Baltimore.

The April 15-20 trip will include visits to New York and Washington and an address at the United Nations.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the details of the papal visit during his remarks to the bishops Nov. 12.

That same day the bishops were briefed by the staff of the New York-based John Jay College of Criminal Justice on an ongoing study of the "causes and context" of clerical sexual abuse.

Researcher Karen Terry told the bishops that early research seems to indicate that the patterns of sexual abuse within the church are consistent with the experience of society as a whole, adding there are "clusters of hypothetical factors being studied" to explain the incidence of sexual abuse.

On Nov. 13, for the first time in 36 years, the bishops elected a cardinal — Francis E. George of Chicago — as their next president.

Cardinal George won the presidency on the first ballot with 188 votes, or 85 percent. He is completing his three-year term as vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He succeeds Bishop Skylstad, whose three-year term came to an end at the close of the meeting. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., was elected vice president.

Cardinal George, in remarks at the end of the public portion of the meeting, thanked Bishop Skylstad for his leadership and friendship, and said: "The conference is stronger in its sense of mission and more purposeful in our decisions."

By a 221-7 vote Nov. 13, the bishops approved legislation specifying when a bishop must get the consent of his diocesan finance council and college of consultors before making certain financial transactions or commitments. It now goes to the Vatican for its approval.

Norms approved by the bishops in 2002 set those thresholds at \$500,000 for dioceses with fewer than 500,000 Catholics and \$1 million for dioceses with 500,000 or more Catholics.

The bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Diocesan Audits recommended annual reporting by every parish as well as exercising caution about the tradition of presuming church employees view their work as ministry and do not need oversight.

Such a "trusting environment" can be exploited by a dishonest worker, the committee's report said.

The bishops also took the final steps to formalize the new USCCB structure and approved a \$147.7 million budget for 2008 and a 16 percent reduction in the diocesan assessment to fund the USCCB.

The same day, with the approval of the body of bishops, a new statement on Iraq was issued in the name of the

bishops' outgoing president, Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash.

The bishops voted overwhelmingly Nov. 13 to draft a brief policy statement on embryonic stem-cell research and a pastoral document on reproductive technologies.

On Nov. 14, the last public day of the four-day meeting, the bishops approved the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

The document rejects politics based on "powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype" and calls instead for "a different kind of political engagement."

That engagement must be "shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and vulnerable," it said.

The bishops also approved several liturgical agenda items Nov. 14: a document on liturgical music, 183-22, with three abstentions; an English-language version of a document on weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word, 190-18, and a Spanish-language version, 188-16, with five abstentions; and revised readings during Lent, 199-6, with five abstentions.

The music document, "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship," had originally been proposed as a document that would have required Vatican approval and would have been binding on bishops in their dioceses.

But Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., outgoing chairman of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, said the committee decided to recommend the document only as a guideline for bishops, not as "normative law."

In "Stewardship and Teenagers: The Challenge of Being a Disciple," approved in a 198-6 vote Nov. 14, the bishops spelled out in simple language what young people can and should do to share their "time, talent and treasure." They also approved a Spanish-language brochure, 202-5; it is not a translation but was written originally in Spanish.

To love Jesus, according to the English-language text, "means loving Jesus as my brother and my savior, my best friend and my God. It means living our faith fully. It means sharing it freely as disciples of Jesus Christ by living out the Gospel value of stewardship. It means walking a mile in the other person's shoes."

The bishops Nov. 14 also OK'd a curriculum framework for developing catechetical materials for high school students, 117-97, with one abstention.

In his last official address as USCCB president Nov. 12, Bishop Skylstad urged a leadership style that does not measure success "moment to moment" but instead follows the example of Jesus and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

"We cannot shrink from our calling to be shepherds, to be leaders," he said. "As Christ made it his mission to show us his Father, to teach us to seek the will of his Father, we cannot in fidelity to him renounce or weaken our proclamation of the truth."



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## 'Thunder' in Asheville



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Epperly, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, signs a copy of his novel, "Sons of Thunder: The Story of Joe and Paul," at a book store in Asheville Nov. 3. Epperly said the book was inspired by Pope John Paul II's "new evangelization."

Epperly was a fallen-away Catholic who rediscovered his Catholic faith while living alone on a mountain in southwest Colorado — he sold all his possessions to follow Jesus, then went to work with homeless children on the streets of New York City, where his experiences partly inspired his book.

## Jesuit scholar's book aims to 'decode' Sistine Chapel frescoes

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A new book by a Jesuit scholar aims to "decode" the Sistine Chapel's famous frescoes, examining a rich but largely hidden array of theological images and symbols.

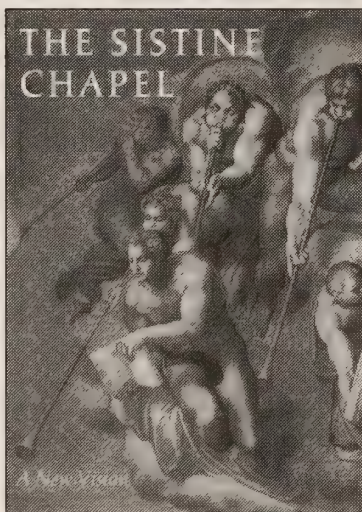
"The Sistine Chapel: A New Vision," the first of a new series of in-depth works on Vatican artistic monuments, was presented at the Vatican Oct. 30.

The author, Father Heinrich Pfeiffer, an art history professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, said the idea for the book grew out of a visit he made to the Sistine Chapel nearly 50 years ago.

At that time, he said, he noticed interesting correlations between Michelangelo's ceiling fresco, "Noah's Drunkenness," and an earlier fresco of the crucifixion on the chapel's side wall directly below.

Father Pfeiffer began to research early church and medieval theology and its influence on Renaissance painting. His conclusion was that the Sistine Chapel artists did not invent the themes, designs and even many of the details in their paintings, but were guided by papal theologians.

In particular, he said, Michelangelo's famed cycle of ceiling frescoes was an "iconographic program" carried out



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBEVILLE PRESS

The Sistine Chapel: A New Vision" is the first of a new series of in-depth works on Vatican artistic monuments. The book, written by art historian Father Heinrich Pfeiffer, includes 186 illustrations.

according to theological principles.

Father Pfeiffer said this theological aspect of the Sistine frescoes is largely ignored by modern art history experts, who focus almost exclusively on the artist and his techniques, materials and style.

The book includes 185 photographs in color and black and white.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 25, 2007

Nov. 25, Christ the King

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3  
Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5
- 2) Colossians 1:12-20  
Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

## Transformation to light done through Christ

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I found myself in a situation recently that I haven't experienced in quite a while — standing in a long line at the bank.

I was conducting business that required help from a teller. I mused that if not for e-checks, credit cards, direct deposit and online banking, the lines at banks would probably be much longer.

There was a time when transferring funds meant literally carrying one's hard currency from one place to another — a slower, more laborious task. But because we have short memories we often consider mere waiting in bank lines an inconvenience.

The second reading for the feast of Christ the King mentions transfer of something more precious than gold as a reminder that the kingdom of God's "beloved Son" is not simply some abstract principle or imaginary place where Christ alone dwells.

The reign of Christ is a state of real and profound transformation that he willingly shares with you and me. Even more significantly, our transfer from the "power of darkness" takes place through the blood of Christ which reconciles

everything to himself.

It is through Christ's efforts, not ours, that this "transaction" takes place, encompassing all of creation.

The Gospel of Luke uses the exchange between the two thieves at Calvary to underscore the point that even when Christ's kingship isn't obvious to the human observer, it is in fact present.

For Luke's first-century community of believers — innocents suffering the persecution reserved for criminals — it was an essential reminder that Christ already had suffered these things and yet maintained his lordship over all.

The Gospel and Paul's letter to the Colossians, when read together, give us the big picture of Christ's kingship throughout eternity, from before the creation of the universe to the moment of our death and far beyond to the end of time.

The church places this feast at the end of the liturgical year just before Advent to instill in us the hope that the same Christ who has always reigned will continue to reign both in our hearts and in human history despite all appearances to the contrary.

Now that's something to meditate on while standing in line at the bank!

### Questions:

What circumstances in your life right now obscure the fact that Christ reigns over all things?

What can you do this week to remind yourself and others in need of hope of the "bigger picture"?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 18-24

**Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Malachi 3:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday**, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Psalm 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (St. Cecilia)**, 1 Maccabees 2:15-29, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Pro)**, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, 1 Chronicles 29:10-12, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions)**, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 25-DEC. 1

**Sunday (Christ the King)**, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday**, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Daniel 3:52-56, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel 3:57-61, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Daniel 3:62-67, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Daniel 6:12-28, Daniel 3:68-74, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday (St. Andrew)**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Saturday**, Daniel 7:15-27, Daniel 3:82-87, Luke 21:34-36.

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## Dick Van Dyke, 'Ugly Betty' TV show honored by Catholic media group

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Comedy icon Dick Van Dyke and the "Ugly Betty" television series were honored at the 15th annual entertainment industry awards luncheon sponsored by Catholics in Media Associates in Los Angeles Nov. 4.

Nearly 400 film, television, radio and media professionals attended the event.

The television series award for "Ugly Betty" was accepted by Ben Silverman, the show's executive producer, accompanied by cast members Tony Plana and Vanessa Williams.

The ABC hit comedy starring America Ferrera playing a fashion-challenged, good-hearted Latina secretary working for a shallow, high-fashion publisher "tackles issues unapologetically," Silverman noted, adding that the show reflects what Catholics in Media Associates are all about, celebrating the "goodness in all of us, wherever you come from, whatever you're about."

"If you really try to define what 'ugly' means on our show, it means we're imperfect, and because we're imperfect, we have the capacity to love (as well as) be loved," said Plana, who plays Betty's father on the show.

Legendary comedian Van Dyke accepted the Catholics in Media Associates lifetime achievement award from his good friend and neighbor, Franciscan Father Warren Rouse, director of the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu.

Five-time Emmy winner Van Dyke said he was "so pleased and proud just to be here and be among you."

The comedian spoke about what has happened since film censorship "went away," as he described it. He said some movie producers "got the freedom and took the responsibility that went with it," but others took freedom to an extreme, he

added, and unfortunately there are "not enough people angry about it."

Paul Haggis, a director, writer and producer, accepted the group's motion picture award for "In the Valley of Elah," a film starring Tommy Lee Jones and Susan Sarandon that examines the impact and aftermath of war on families and the nation. Haggis noted that today's service men and women deserve our attention.

In accepting the organization's board of directors' award for the film "The Nativity Story," producer Marty Bowen said he and his co-producer, Wyck Godfrey, set out to "humanize Mary and Joseph — two people who are often put up on a pedestal."

Bowen, a member of Good Shepherd Church in Los Angeles, said it was a great experience to make a movie for people of faith and it was also gratifying to dramatize the Nativity for those unfamiliar with the salvation story.

Tom Allen, who accepted the documentary award for "Champions of Faith — Baseball Edition," said he wanted to publicly thank the baseball players who spoke so "heroically" about their faith.

"What we want to do is a whole series of these films where we go to the different sports," he said.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Tony Scannell, one of the founding members of Catholics in Media Associates and former publisher of The Tidings, was given the Christophers' Spirit Award in recognition of his leadership in Catholic communications.

Christophers' president Dennis Heaney said the Spirit Award is given on rare occasions to "an individual in the media world we believe has used his or her gifts over many years to exemplify the commitment to lifting the human spirit in the creative arts."

## 'That ubiquitous hymn'

*Girl's comment saved 'I Am the Bread of Life' song from trash bin*

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — An unsolicited comment from a high school girl kept one of the most popular hymns of the Second Vatican Council era, "I Am the Bread of Life," from meeting an untimely fate.

Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan, who composed the song, said she had been asked to write a song for an event in the Archdiocese of San Francisco — possibly a eucharistic event, she recalled — and was writing on deadline.

At the Catholic girls' high school in California where she was teaching in 1966, Sister Toolan used an unoccupied room next to the school infirmary to finish what became "I Am the Bread of Life."

"I worked on it, and I tore it up. I thought, 'This will not do,'" she told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 16 telephone interview from her order's convent in Burlingame, Calif.

"And this little girl came out of the infirmary and said, 'What was that? That was beautiful!' I went right back and Scotch-taped it up," she said.

The rest, as they say, is history. But history takes time.

Sister Toolan said the song was "not particularly well received" in San Francisco, but she credited "a very gifted Sulpician" named Father John Olivier at a seminary near the Burlingame convent with helping get the word out about her songs.

"He would come to our convent on Saturdays, so we'd have a decent homily every week," she said. "He began to hear some of my things and he took it back to the seminary. And that's how I think most of my things got out."

"I Am the Bread of Life" is not only in all manner of Catholic hymnals, but also is in the official hymnbooks of the Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist churches.

"People keep giving me copies of it when they go to Europe or Asia, even," Sister Toolan said. "It's in different languages. It's thrilling."

She alluded to "the problem some critics have allowing the congregation to sing words that Jesus has spoken."

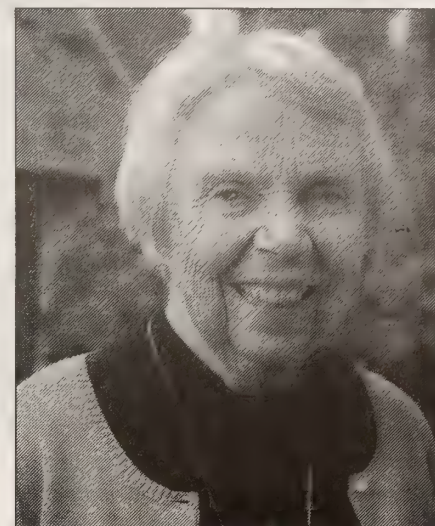
She left the phone to scurry to find a copy of a column from one of those critics, Catholic press columnist George Weigel.

"Weigel calls it 'that — I can't even pronounce it! — hymn,'" she said, spelling the word "ubiquitous."

"My answer is: Do we really think we're saying 'I am the bread of life' and that 'I' is the assembly? I don't see why we can't use that as a prayer," she said.

Sister Toolan sees another problem inherent in the hymn, though: "It's a hymn that really shouldn't work for the congregation. It's too low. It's too high."

"I often ask myself: Why does it work so well, then? I think it's the Scripture. The Scripture is so strong," she said.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SISTERS OF MERCY

Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan, who is pictured in an undated photo, composed "I Am the Bread of Life," one of the most popular hymns from the Second Vatican Council era.

She took it upon herself to make the lyrics more inclusive, including changing the original "I will raise him up" in the chorus to "I will raise you up."

"I did that a long time ago, but other people have done it, too," she said. "As soon as that awareness (about inclusive language) came in, I couldn't live with it (the original) anymore."

Sister Toolan, who was to celebrate her 80th birthday Oct. 24, is not only a liturgical music composer, but now an author as well, getting credit as a co-author with Elizabeth Dossa, communications officer for the Mercy Sisters in Burlingame, for a book titled "I Am the Bread of Life."

"I have a hard time with ... being the subject of it," Sister Toolan said, adding that when Dossa first sat her down to interview her on her life and ministry, she thought it was for some other purpose.

"It's kind of dumb of me, but I didn't know I was writing a book," she said.

Dossa came back to Sister Toolan the next week, "so I thought she was looking for some more quotes," she added. "Finally dodo," she said, referring to herself, "realizes what's going on."

Sister Toolan called Dossa "a lovely, a gorgeous person and a very fine writer."

Born Gloria Toolan in Lansing, Mich., she took her sister Suzanne's name when she entered religious life 57 years ago, because "I hate" Gloria, she noted.

Sister Toolan said she holds a unique record among Sisters of Mercy.

"I'm the only one in the community who's always stayed here in the motherhouse," she said. "It's a beautiful, wonderful property. When they made the (assignment) changes, I'd always hide."

Her call to religious life, she said, "came pretty early on, even in first grade. We had this kind of strange but wonderful nun" — a Mercy sister — "who used to play the organ," she recalled.

"I thought, 'Gee, I want to be a nun and I want to be an organist,'" she said.

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## Animals and All Saints



COURTESY PHOTO

Father John Starczewski, pastor of Sacred Heart Mission in Wadesboro, is pictured with children dressed as animals for a St. Francis of Assisi party Oct. 28. The party was a way for the children to celebrate and learn about the feast of All Saints, celebrated Nov. 1, which is a holy day of obligation and commemorates all those in heaven.

Because St. Francis of Assisi is the patron of animals, the kids came to the party dressed as cows, ladybugs and other animals. The party included a lesson on All Saints' Day and the life and teachings of St. Francis, as well as crafts, games, refreshments and bags of treats. Pet food donations also were collected for the Anson County Humane Society.

Also pictured are (from left) Alice Holloway, Kurt McCormick, Brady Ross, Hunter Ross, Caleb Laney, Isabella Greene, Mariana Greene and Jessica Laney.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, is pictured with children dressed as their favorite saints on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1. The children learned about saints and enjoyed games, prizes and food. After celebrating Mass, Father Winslow introduced the young "saints" to the congregation.

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## Girl Scouts show others how 'Kids Care'



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 82 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte are pictured with the "Good-eats Bags" they made for needy children.

## Service project brings 'good moments' to people in need

CHARLOTTE — Girl Scouts at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte recently showed others how much they care.

During National Kids Care Week Oct. 21-27, this year themed "Bringing Good Moments," young volunteers combined their spirit of compassion with their creative energy to enrich and heal the lives of others through service projects.

The Girl Scout Troop Kids Care Club at Our Lady of the Assumption Church is one of more than 1,400 Kids Care Clubs nationwide. Kids Care Clubs, a program of the Points of Light & Hands On Network, provides elementary- and middle school-age children with hands-on volunteer opportunities to help others in their local and global communities.

For National Kids Care Week, Brownie Troop 3089 and Junior Girl Scouts Troop 82 — girls ranging from kindergarten through fifth-grade at Our Lady of the Assumption School — put together "Good-eat Bags" for an organization that assists homeless children.

The bags contained healthy food and a handmade card.

"In some instances, this small meal will be the only food the homeless child may receive outside of the free breakfast and lunch program at their school," said Anne Morlando, Junior Troop 82 leader.

The Girl Scouts also studied the causes and effects of homelessness. They had group discussions and played a board game that put them in control of a pretend family's income for a month. Throughout the game, the Scouts had to use game money to pay rent and doctor bills, and buy groceries and other items.

"They experienced how running out of money and potentially becoming homeless could easily take place," said Morlando.

"They truly felt compassion for the students they were helping, and they look

forward to finding other ways to impact people in our Charlotte neighborhood that are in most need of assistance," she said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about Kids Care Clubs, visit [www.kidscare.org](http://www.kidscare.org) or call (203) 656-8052.

### 'Good Moments' good benefits

"Bringing Good Moments" projects are designed to:

- educate youths about the needs in four categories: homelessness, literacy, seniors and troops and veterans;
- enable clubs to bring "good moments" to people in need through meaningful, hands-on service projects;
- demonstrate to youths that by bringing "good moments" to others, they develop skills and nurture values that will last them a lifetime.



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# Catholics schools plan long-range study

*Results will help make education more accessible, affordable*

CHARLOTTE — How many Catholic schools are needed in the Diocese of Charlotte? How can Catholic education be made affordable to all?

These are two of the many questions to be addressed in a long-range planning study being conducted by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office.

Catholic Education Consulting Services, a Denver-based independent Catholic consulting firm, will conduct the study over the next 12 to 16 months.

"At a time when many dioceses across the country are experiencing consolidations and/or closing of schools, the Diocese of Charlotte is growing and so is enrollment in Catholic schools," said Linda Cherry, superintendent, in a letter to parents.

To ensure continued success, she said, the study will help determine:

- where new schools are needed;
- which parishes have students who would attend a Catholic school if facilities were available;

- the optimal capacity at each school and if each student is guaranteed a seat for the duration of his

or her education;

- the most efficient and cost-effective transportation options for students in the diocese.

The study will also identify alternative school models and governance and financing options that will make Catholic schools affordable for all.

"During this study, Catholic Education Services will visit all 18 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, and will interview pastors, administrators, support personnel and key members of the Catholic community," said Cherry.

The study will be overseen by a steering committee chaired by Cherry.

"The implementation of long-term plans will enable us to meet the goal of making Catholic education accessible and affordable to all Catholic families within the diocese — now and in the future," said Cherry.

## WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about diocesan Catholic schools, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html).

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

# Racing for the faith



COURTESY PHOTOS

Children take part in the Kid's Fun Run (above) at St. Mark School in Huntersville during the "5K Race for the Faith" fundraiser for St. Mark Church Oct. 13. More than 130 children participated in the Kids' Fun Run and more than 300 adults participated in the 5K (below), which raised more than \$13,600 toward the church building fund.



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Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila and Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid.

Price from Charlotte: \$2799 (or \$2699 before January 27)

For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965, Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Abortion 'is' a religious issue

*'Do no harm' principal applies in all regards*

In an essay for the Los Angeles Times (Nov. 4, 2007), Garry Wills, the noted historian and author of many books which include "What Jesus Meant," "Saint Augustine" and "Why Am I Catholic?", seems to have totally lost the answer to the last question in asserting that battling abortion has nothing to do with religion.

Wills should know better.

He begins his argument with the startling proposition that "the Catholic Church has not always treated abortion as murder," then asserts that "the subject of abortion is not scriptural."

Abortion, he proclaims, is not treated in the Old or New Testament.

For good measure, Wills then tosses in the speculations of St. Thomas Aquinas about human ensoulment occurring "at the end of human generation."

For many Jews and Christians, "Thou shalt not kill" in the Ten Commandments is obvious enough. In the New Testament, the instruction to "love God and love your neighbor as yourself" is also reasonably apt.

It would stand matters on their head to see loving oneself as an authorization to kill. If we observe the strongest of human inclinations to preserve oneself, we can hardly fail to extend that sanctity to others.

As for St. Thomas, can it really be surmised that Aquinas would want faith to be denied the benefit of the knowledge of modern prenatal science?

Faith and reason are partners, not antagonists, and in this instance science exhibits the essence of unborn life far more fully to us than it did to Thomas.

Of course, Wills would likely insist that any argument likening abortion to murder begs the question since the killing referenced in the Decalogue and our duty to preserve life necessarily refer to "persons," and Wills contends we really don't treat the unborn as "persons."

For example, Catholics and other religious believers, argues Wills, do not call for imposing criminal punishment on a mother who kills her unborn child.

Fair enough. We have not done this, but it also proves nothing. It is a matter of prudent discernment how strongly human law ought to be drafted to coincide with the moral or natural law.

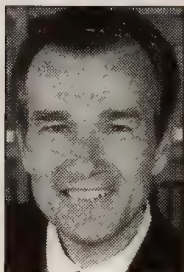
Since Wills fancies Aquinas, he should remember that the good Dominican admonished us not to "attempt to enact every virtue or prohibit every vice" into law, as doing so would overtax human capability.

But like so many moderns, Wills mistakes what is legal (or what consensus approves) for what is moral.

Wills also overlooks the sacramental teaching of the church on forgiveness and compassion, which itself would be

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMEIC  
CNS COLUMNIST



a basis to be hesitant about criminalizing the decision of a woman that has to be so callously misled and deliberately confused by what John Paul II described as "the culture of death."

As for Wills' claim that abortion is not a scriptural subject, he might want to take a look at the teaching of the apostles in the Didache, traceable to the end of the first century, which rather explicitly recites "you shall not kill the embryo by abortion."

In my Catholic Catechism, this scriptural reference is reaffirmed with: "This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable" (par. 2271).

Since Wills is without support in Scripture or Aquinas for his proposition that abortion is not a religious subject, he is left with little in the way of argument.

He quotes the splendid Cardinal John Henry Newman as saying "I shall drink to the pope, if you please — still, to conscience first, and to the pope afterward."

Cardinal Newman was not licensing human conscience to contradict either Scripture or natural law, but exactly the opposite. As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger pointed out before assuming the papacy, Cardinal Newman had elaborated a theory of conscience which did not shade off into individualism.

In the end, virtually all of Wills' argument is simply the timeworn claim that, because the unborn child at various stages may not yet have a functioning central nervous system or cerebral cortex, he or she is not worthy of legal or moral protection.

This is not reason but misuse of science. No responsible researcher expects moral answer to be derived from scientific description.

And even were that not true, long ago the late Dr. Jerome LeJeune, the world-renowned researcher of Down's Syndrome, noted that no geneticist has ever doubted that all that is necessary for human life exists from the moment of conception.

No, the only thing needed for people of good will to honor the dignity of unborn life is to observe the most basic principal of medical science: "Primum non nocere" ("first, do no harm") — an admonition that applies to noted historians and sometime religious writers as well.

## The important anniversary you did not hear about

*Urgent teaching of 'Populorum Progressio' relevant today as 40 years ago*

This year marks the 40th anniversary of one of the most radical and relevant Catholic documents of our time.

Unfortunately, 2007 will soon come to an end with little attention paid to Pope Paul VI's landmark encyclical "Populorum Progressio" ("On the Development of Peoples").

With deep insight into the problems facing the poor throughout the world, Pope Paul VI condemned the unjust disparity between those who have too much and those who have too little, and challenged rich nations to place their wealth at the service of suffering humanity.

In 1967, like today, war was raging, military spending was out of control, nuclear weapons threatened humanity, millions of Americans were poor and billions of people worldwide were struggling to survive. "The present situation of the world demands concerted action," Pope Paul wrote.

For its part, he said, the church must "scrutinize the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel."

Pope Paul VI called on the church to take a critical, analytical view of all that plagues humanity and to work tirelessly to find solutions to them that reflect the radical vision of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"The world is sick," from a "lack of brotherhood among individuals and peoples," wrote the pope.

"When so many people are hungry, when so many families suffer from destitution, when so many remain steeped in ignorance, when so many schools, hospitals and homes worthy of the name remain to be built, all public or private squandering of wealth, ... every exhausting armaments race becomes an intolerable scandal," he wrote.

The pope explained that it was

## Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



his duty to denounce this scandal. He pleaded with those in authority to listen to his words "before it is too late."

He also urged us to form consciences that convey "a new message for our times."

If only we would dare to challenge our consciences, to develop a higher level of moral integrity that would say no to weapons of war and yes to human development!

Pope Paul also called for establishment of a world fund, made up of part of the money spent on arms, that would be used to relieve the destitute of this world. Military power will never defeat terrorism, but human development will.

Pope Paul prophetically wrote that the "new name for peace" is development.

"Excessive economic social and cultural inequalities among peoples arouse tensions and conflicts, and are a danger to peace. ... To wage war on misery and to struggle against injustice" is to promote the human and spiritual progress of humanity, he said.

The urgent teaching of "Populorum Progressio" is as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. I've only scratched its surface here. I hope many others will write, teach and preach on it.

It's that important.

## Witnessing the dignity of life

I read with interest the article "Quintuplets bring Catholic couple joy, teach lesson in patience" (Nov. 9). As a father of four children ages 5 and under, I know how children can teach patience!

However, I was disappointed in one aspect of the article — the mother was given the option to "reduce the pregnancy to two or three babies, terminate the entire pregnancy or carry the pregnancy as it was to term."

Though the word was not mentioned in the story, we all know what these first two options entail — abortion. I am very glad that she made the decision not to terminate the lives of any of her children. Killing babies, born or unborn, is wrong.

What a wonderful opportunity this could have been for a faithful Catholic family to witness to the Gospel of Life before a medical establishment that would encourage her to kill her own children under the euphemism of

## Letters to the Editor

"reducing the pregnancy."

A much better witness to the dignity of human life was the guest column by Kathy Schmugge ("Discovering the body's world," Nov. 9).

She described the reactions that people had to the display of human embryos in different stages of growth, as they came face to face with the reality of their humanity. As one woman is quoted as saying, "This is not a blob of tissue."

I hope and pray that many who attended that exhibit came away with a changed perspective and a better appreciation for the dignity of human life at all stages.

— Matthew Newsome  
Silva



# My Thanksgiving wish for you

*Affection of close friends is source of happiness, strength*

"If at the end of your life you have one good friend, you are very fortunate."

When my grandfather said this, it didn't connect with me. I thought, "You will always have friends if you make friends."

It is true that if we continue to make friends we will always have friends. Lifelong friends are precious gems.

As such, it is my Thanksgiving wish that you cherish your close friends. Count them as your greatest blessing.


English critic, scholar and novelist C.S. Lewis tells us, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'"

In Spanish the word "simpatico" means, "I feel and suffer what you are feeling and suffering." I am one with you because we have this in common.

Some of my best friends were classmates, not the smart ones but the ones such as I who made it through school by the skin of our teeth. Running scared together and suffering through

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



doubtful moments became the precious bonds of our friendship.

No doubt some of our best friends are those with whom we endured difficult trials. Let's thank God for having them at our side and for the friendship that resulted.

Lewis also tells us, "Eros will have naked bodies; friendship naked personalities."

There is nothing more beautiful in life than being able to express our feelings, flaws, desires and loves with another without holding back.

No doubt we've had cathartic moments when we were able to share

our deepest feelings with another. So let's thank God for the freedom we felt, because of the freedom given us by a friend.

Lewis tells us too that "affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives."

In the Old Testament, Jonathan, the son of Saul, was very fond of David. We must wonder how much this supported David when Saul was forever trying to kill him.

We also must wonder how much the fondness of a friend has sustained us through trying times.

The affection of close friends can be a wonderful source of happiness that strengthens our spirit and enables us to perform unimaginable feats. Let's thank God for the heart this put into our hearts.

The word "friend" in Romantic languages comes from the word "amare," to love. May our Thanksgiving be a time of recalling dear friends and the love they give us.

# 'Bella,' the beautiful choice

*Threats, condemnation, coercion is wrong way on pro-life path*

At the Toronto Film Festival there are several awards. One is the "Film Critics Award." Another is "The People's Choice Award."

What's the difference? I really don't know; I can only speculate.

The "People's Choice" probably has something to do with what ordinary viewers really like. The film critics view the silver screen from a higher perch through a sophisticated, if not elitist lens.

I suspect the experts often miss what the ordinary moviegoers closer to the ground connect with eye to eye and heart to heart.

"Bella" won the "People's Choice

Award" in Toronto for 2007, but when the film opened nationwide in late October, the critics for the New York Times, Washington Post, Variety, other newspapers, Internet blogs and slick magazines managed to mute their enthusiasm.

Bella is the name of a sweet young child who shows up in the last reel of this film to meet her tearful mother who chose life over the alternative of an abortion several years before.

Neither the tears nor the life choice seem to have registered with the critics. They do register, however, with the PG-13 audiences that have been filling the theaters to see this show.

I personally prefer realistic over impressionistic visual art. And I have to confess that the jumps and cuts in both story line and visual flow left me momentarily confused from time to time as I watched this stunning story unfold on the screen.


The crisis is indeed drawn with sufficient clarity for the viewer to understand the choice that a young, unmarried, pregnant woman has to face between having an abortion or bearing a child.

There is no didacticism here. There is no propaganda, much less preaching.

There is, however, quiet persuasion on the part of a handsome young man whose earlier misfortune behind the wheel of a sports car resulted in the accidental death of a child. He befriends the pregnant woman without the benefit of any romantic links to her.

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



What struck me as I sat engaged and enthralled by this 91-minute experience of film art was how much more effective persuasion can be over coercion in the abortion debate.

Threats, condemnation and heavy-handed coercion represent the wrong way to go on the pro-life path. Nonjudgmental acceptance and support of the woman who has to make the choice and gentle persuasion from someone ready, able and willing to care for the child are surely more effective ways to reach the right solution.


There are good words spoken for adoption in a sidebar plot to this family-focused film. There is much more here to think about and nothing to resent. No finger-pointing, no name-calling, no criminalization.

There is just selfless love (is there any other kind?) and human reassurances that demonstrate how being with as well as for a troubled person can bring light out of darkness and hope out of despair.

Pope, at audience, encourages Christians to read Bible

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY — To know God and to know how to live their lives, Christians must read the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Drawing close to the biblical texts, especially the New Testament, is essential for believers because 'ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ,'" the pope said, quoting St. Jerome.

At his Nov. 14 weekly general audience, the pope continued a talk begun the week before about the importance of the teaching of St. Jerome, the fourth-century doctor of the church.

Reading the Bible teaches believers the way they are to live their lives, the pope said, but the Scriptures must be read in a spirit of prayer and must be understood the way the church understands them.

"For Jerome, a fundamental criterion for the interpretation of Scriptures was harmony with the magisterium of the church," he said.

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this week's catechesis we continue our reflections on St. Jerome, the priest and scholar who was responsible for the Latin translation of the Bible known as the Vulgate.

Convinced that "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ," Jerome everywhere urged the daily, prayerful study of the word of God. He insisted that the correct interpretation of the Scriptures demands not only the interior assistance of the Holy Spirit but also conformity to the church's authoritative teaching.

Jerome stressed the importance for all Christians, but especially for preachers, of ensuring that their lives accord with the ethical teaching offered in the sacred texts.

Devotion to the Word of God also shaped Jerome's ascetic doctrine, which emphasized the virtue of obedience and encouraged the pious practice of pilgrimage, particularly to the Holy Land.

Finally, by his spiritual counsel, especially to parents, he emphasized the importance of a broad and disciplined Christian education for the young, including women.

Jerome's integration of the enduring values of classical civilization and the wisdom of the inspired Word of God made him one of the great figures of the emerging Christian culture of late antiquity.

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottdiocese.org.





CNS PHOTO BY ODALIZ ANAYA, REUTERS

Residents walk on a flooded street in Villahermosa, Mexico, Nov. 1. About 500,000 Mexicans were left homeless after floods devastated 70 percent of the southern state of Tabasco.

# Soaked in despair

*As water recedes, Mexican flood victims must rebuild their lives*

BY IOAN GRILLO  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico — Filthy water recedes from the city streets. Lights and telephones flash on. Globe-trotting TV crews fly on to the next story.

But for many residents of flood-ravaged southeastern Mexico, their troubles are just beginning. As the pure shock of escaping danger fades away, they wake up to a new harsh reality.

Crops of corn, bananas and beans have been ripped to pieces, robbing many of their only income; the decaying corpses of thousands of cows, pigs and chickens line fields; hundreds of thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed; water supplies to villages are polluted.

"This is a situation that is going to affect people for months or even years," said Eufemio Flores, emergency coordinator for Caritas Mexico, the local affiliate of the Catholic umbrella organization Caritas Internationalis.

"The evacuation operation was good. But in the past, our government has been notorious for quickly forgetting about the long-term problems of people in disaster zones," he said.

After a week of torrential rain, rivers across southeastern Mexico burst their banks in late October. The water enveloped more than 70 percent of the swampy state of Tabasco, home to 2 million people and the sprawling oil city of Villahermosa.

It also wreaked havoc in mountain communities in the neighboring state of Chiapas, unleashing a Nov. 4 landslide that wiped a village completely off the map.

At least 18 people were killed by the floods and dozens are still missing.

International observers say the death toll was relatively low because the Mexican government and aid organizations were quick to evacuate people, set up shelters and fly in packages of water, food and medical supplies.

"If there were not such a fast and wide-scale response, the human cost of this tragedy would have been much higher," said Helena Ranchal, regional head of the European Commission's emergency relief fund.

In the farming village of Santa Catalina, 300 residents crammed into their schoolhouse for a week, eating dry tortillas while their houses were submerged. When the water finally receded, they clambered out, hungry and tired, to find their crops devastated.

"I don't know what we are going to do. We have nothing for this year's harvest. How are we going to live?" asked Jesus Hilario.

Tabasco's Economy Ministry reports that the state's agriculture — which includes corn, cocoa, sugar cane and citrus — has been almost completely destroyed for the year, wiping out the income of up to a third of the population.

Hilario feared that he might have to abandon his home and look for work in another part of Mexico or in the United States. Thousands already have left

Tabasco, fleeing to neighboring Veracruz or Mexico City as the waters rose.

Relief crews have brought in food and water to Santa Catalina and across the state. But there is not always enough to go around, and villagers have fought over packages.

Lacking bottled water, villagers drink from wells that have been contaminated as garbage and rotting carcasses were hurled around in floodwaters.

"We tell people in the village not to take water from the wells. But when you have nothing to drink, what are you going to do?" Hilario asked.

Caritas Mexico is planning to distribute packs of disinfectant and train the villagers how to clean the wells, said Flores.

Government doctors also are handing out vaccines for cholera and other diseases. Swarms of mosquitoes eat away at the animal carcasses, then bite humans while people wade through the receding water to get back to their homes.

In the Villahermosa slum of Tierra Colorado, residents continued to live in camps of tarpaulin and cardboard, two weeks after they fled their houses. Their damaged furniture and possessions lay scattered by them on the road, and they cooked meals on makeshift fires.

"We are starting to go crazy living like this," said Jose Wuatla, 48, while his family rested on a torn-up sofa that was dragged from their flooded house. "We have no money left, and we need to get back to work. But it is hard to go out and leave your family like this."

Tierra Colorado residents are scared about a crocodile that has been swimming about the flooded slum streets. Government officials have warned that the floods have swept crocodiles and dangerous snakes from Tabasco's lagoons into the city.

Thousands of refugees continued to fill up the refuges, including one in the city's cathedral.

Some evacuees in the shelters had lost their houses completely, with rushing water from the hills toppling their cinderblock and corrugated-tin structures. Others still had dirty water filling their homes. The evacuees said they prayed that money would arrive from the government or aid organizations to repair or rebuild their homes.

"We have to trust in God that the help will come," said Nadia Gomez, sleeping in Villahermosa's St. Anthony of Padua Church with her three children after her home was torn to pieces. "We just don't have the money to build a new house from nothing."

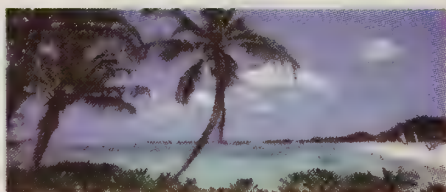
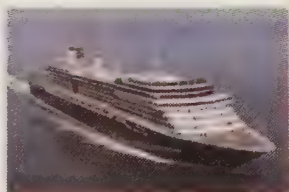
## WANT TO HELP?

The Diocese of Charlotte is responding by collecting funds on behalf of Catholic Relief Services to be used in short- and long-term recovery efforts. Donations may be sent to the Diocese of Charlotte, Attn: Mexico Flood Relief Effort, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. All contributions will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

The 150th anniversary  
of Lourdes miracle; the  
formula for Middle East  
peace; World AIDS Day

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NOVEMBER 23, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 5

POPE BENEDICT XVI

## He's coming to America

Archbishop Wuerl  
hopes pope's visit will  
energize people's faith

BY JERRY FILTEAU  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON —  
Washington Archbishop  
Donald W. Wuerl said he hopes  
Pope Benedict XVI's visit  
to the nation's capital next  
spring will deepen the faith of  
Catholics in the Archdiocese  
of Washington and give them  
new energy.

"Personally, I'm thrilled  
that he will be here and be with  
all of us," he said.

"There is so much renewal  
going on, among our young  
people, in the whole church,"  
said Archbishop Wuerl.

"His visit will be a  
reaffirmation of that. But also  
I'd like to think it's going to be  
a way of just re-energizing us,"  
he said.

See POPE, page 6

## Exploring the 'breakdown in human coexistence'



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA FRASER

Tourists climb on bare rock on the Pastoruri glacier in Peru's Cordillera Blanca mountain range in July. The Pastoruri glacier, long a leading tourist attraction in Peru, has lost 40 percent of its mass and is technically no longer a glacier. The area in this photo was covered by ice a decade ago.

Church sees Latin  
American glaciers  
as symbols of God,  
source of life

BY BARBARA J. FRASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HUANCAYO, Peru —  
The snow-capped peak of  
Mount Huaytapallana, which  
looms over the landscape in the  
Archdiocese of Huancayo, is a  
symbol of God and a source of  
life for the Quechua people of  
the central Andes.

"Snow-capped mountains  
are a symbol of the divine,"  
said Huancayo Archbishop  
Pedro Barreto Jimeno.

"In the Quechua  
culture, there is a very close  
relationship between nature and

See GLACIERS, page 8

## Celebration and step dancing

Awards dinner  
recognizes Irish-  
American culture,  
supports parade

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — WBTV  
anchor Maureen O'Boyle, a  
Catholic, was named grand  
marshal of the upcoming 12th  
annual Charlotte St. Patrick's  
Day Parade.

O'Boyle also received  
the Irish Person of the Year  
Award during the fourth annual

See IRISH, page 4



CNS PHOTO BY JACK KUSTRON, THE CATHOLIC TIMES

Some of the more than 20,000 young Catholics from across the U.S. take part in the National Catholic Youth Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 8. The three-day gathering featured worship, seminars, a Catholic theme park, music and lots of time for fellowship.

## 'Awed by the energy'

Catholic youths at national conference in  
Ohio keep their faith alive

BY TIM PUET  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

COLUMBUS, Ohio —  
During the National Catholic  
Youth Conference in Columbus  
Nov. 8-10, about 20,000 youths  
— including youths from the  
Diocese of Charlotte — had  
the chance to sing, pray, ask  
questions about their faith,  
meet new people and even play  
dodgeball.

Twenty-five youths from  
six churches in the Diocese  
of Charlotte attended the  
conference, with four youths  
serving as "animators," or on-  
stage entertainment.

The youths said they had an  
"awesome" time, according to  
Peg Ruble, assistant director of  
youth ministry for the Diocese  
of Charlotte.

See YOUTHS, page 5

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Book on papal liturgies;  
Catholic toys hit market

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## When nature strikes

Chile earthquake;  
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FINDING GOD IN THE STILLNESS



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Benedictine Father Laurence Freeman (left), a native Briton and president of the World Community of Christian Meditation, conducts a Nov. 8 midday meditation session at Georgetown University in Washington.

## Christian meditation finds a sanctuary at Georgetown University

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the oldest building on the campus of the United States' oldest Catholic university, Christian meditation has found a place to take root.

The structure at Georgetown University is now home to a meditation center that had for two years before been based in a pair of adjoining row houses one block from campus.

In the center, organized meditation is offered twice a day, although students, faculty and staff can walk into the building at all hours for some moments of silent meditation.

"Ma-ra-na-tha," counseled Benedictine Father Laurence Freeman, a native Briton, at one recent midday meditation session.

He was instructing those present to say the ancient Greek invocation for "Come, Lord" to themselves, inside their heads slowly and evenly, without putting emphasis on any syllable.

"The best way to learn is to practice," Father Freeman said, as the meditation session had a few first-timers.

Some sat in chairs, some sat on small pillows on the floor and a majority had their footwear off, as they meditated.

Meditation, the priest asserted, is "simple. It's not easy, but it's simple."

Although anyone could meditate, not everyone does, said Father Freeman, noting that many Christians have lost touch with this ancient form of prayer.

What's the reason? "The mind is not attentive," Father Freeman explained. "It's very distractive. ... Don't be disappointed if your mind wanders. Someone once described it as a monkey jumping among the branches."

The Georgetown meditation session was flanked by two readings: one from

a Chinese text called "Tao-Ching," the other by the late Benedictine priest, Father John Main, for whom the Georgetown center is named.

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of Father Main's death, and his efforts to spread Christian meditative practices have been observed this year with different programs across North America.

Father Main, who believed that the contemplative experience creates community, began the first meditation groups at his monastery in London and, later, in Montreal. His student and collaborator in these endeavors was Father Freeman, now president of the World Community of Christian Meditation.

Father Freeman said he believes the meditation center at Jesuit-run Georgetown is unique among U.S. Catholic colleges in that a specific spot on the campus has been reserved for meditation.

"People say to me they're missing something," Father Freeman said. "They're often confused" by unceasing demands placed on them in society and respond by undertaking a "spiritual search," he said.

The search can begin at any time in life. For some it starts quite early. In the Diocese of Townsville, Australia, 31 Catholic elementary schools have adopted meditation as part of the school routine.

Father Freeman said he marveled at the energy of Georgetown students who work and study hard yet want to maintain a rich prayer life and embrace meditation as one way to pray.

A verse from Psalm 46 in some versions of the Bible carries a rich reminder about the benefits of meditation: "Be still and know that I am God."

## Federal lawmakers, including Pelosi, chided for not attending global poverty conference

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A San Francisco Catholic official wrote letters in early November to California's two U.S. Democratic senators, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; and three other federal lawmakers to voice "deep disappointment" that none of them attended a conference on global poverty held at St. Mary's Cathedral.

George Wesolek, the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Office of Public Policy and Social Concerns director, said he could only surmise "elimination of global poverty" is not a priority for them.

The Point7Now! Action Conference Oct. 27 was designed to urge federal lawmakers to support legislation aimed at implementing a U.N. mandate to reduce the most dire poverty in the developing world by 2015.

Pelosi had a representative at the meeting. In replies to Wesolek, some of the other lawmakers said their aides had talked with conference planners

prior to the event.

The conference focused on foreign aid and trade reforms and a debt-relief measure — all topics of bills pending in the current congressional session and requiring urgent action, according to conference speakers.

The speakers said the legislation would have an immediate impact on the extreme poor by boosting spending on health and education, which they said would lessen suffering from preventable diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDs.

"On behalf of the over 500 participants at the event, I can say that there was deep disappointment because of your lack of participation," wrote Wesolek. "Perhaps, this lack of participation is a brief glimpse into why congressional job approval is at an all-time low."

Wesolek said the fact Pelosi's representative, Phil De Andrade, attended was appreciated but noted his responses were not that pertinent to the legislation on global poverty.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — SPRED (Special Religious Development) is a faith formation program at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., for those of all ages with developmental disabilities. We invite all members of your parish, those with disabilities and those without, to share our common bond as we celebrate a *SPRED Advent Family Mass* marking the beginning of the Advent season, Dec. 2 at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the banquet room following the Mass. If you have questions, call Pat at (704) 541-8362.

CHARLOTTE — The next *Blood Give-In Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will be Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., in the family room of the Parish Center. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as driver's license or Red Cross blood donor card. Sign-up tables will be in the narthex Nov. 24-25 and Dec. 1-2. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be taken as time permits. If you have questions, call Pat at (704) 541-8362.

CHARLOTTE — "Las Posadas," a free bilingual Christmas program, will take place at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Enjoy a memorable evening with beautiful scenes, unforgettable music and prayerful spirit in preparation for the Christmas season. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A *World AIDS Day* commemoration will take place Nov. 30 at 4 p.m. A reading of names of individuals who have died of AIDS will occur in Polk Park at the corner of Trade and Tryon streets in uptown Charlotte. The public is invited to attend and participate by remembering persons they have known who died of this disease. Participating AIDS service organizations include House of Mercy, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, CHARM Project, CW Williams Health Center, the Latino Outreach Program and Metrolina AIDS Project. For more information, contact Marjorie Storch at (704) 825-4711 ext. 3.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A new study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Nov. 27 and Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail [teallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:teallfleming@yahoo.com).

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information,

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Veteran Vatican diplomat named to head U.S. military archdiocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, a Cleveland native who is apostolic nuncio to the Dominican Republic and delegate to Puerto Rico, to head the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

The appointment was announced in Washington Nov. 19 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Broglio, 55, succeeds Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, who was installed as head of the Baltimore Archdiocese Oct. 1.

"I am indeed privileged to take the reins from Archbishop O'Brien," said Archbishop Broglio at a Nov. 19 news conference at the military archdiocese's headquarters in Washington.

The new military archbishop, who has never been in the armed forces, said he has encountered members of the military in countries where he served in

the diplomatic corps.

He said his primary goal as military archbishop will be to find more chaplains. Currently there are about 300 Catholic military chaplains serving U.S. troops.

"The greatest resource of our (archdiocese) is our priests," Archbishop Broglio said. "Chaplains are committed to letting the light of Christ shine."

Archbishop Broglio is to be formally installed as head of the military archdiocese Jan. 25 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

In the new post, he will be in charge of the spiritual, pastoral and sacramental care of the 375,000 Catholic active-duty U.S. military personnel and their 800,000 family members; 200,000 Catholics in the Reserves and National Guard; 30,000 Catholic patients in 172 Veterans Affairs hospitals; and 66,000 Catholics in government service overseas in 134 countries.

call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — An Advent Bible study, "The Coming of the Lord," will meet at The Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., Dec. 6 and 13, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Read and reflect on passages showing us that Jesus' coming is in both the "now" and the "not yet." Presenter will be Kitty Rodgers, Bible scholar and spiritual director. Pre-register by calling (336) 273-2554.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will have a Christmas Tea at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. For more information, contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. "Genesis 12-36: The Patriarchal Stories," will be studied beginning Nov. 27. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., an Ignatian-staffed parish, will host a Reception for Alumni of Jesuit Universities, Colleges and Parishes Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. The reception will provide an opportunity to expand our connection with those who have experienced Ignatian spirituality and to reignite friendships or make new ones. To RSVP and for more information call Rosemary Hyman at (704) 664-3992 or email at rhyman@sainttherese.net.

SALISBURY — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered

at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Primacy of Christ (Bonaventure)" Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, call (336) 723-1092 or e-mail spiritofofassis@bellsouth.net.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Compassionate Care-Givers meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 1 — 7:15 a.m.

Mass for aspirants in Permanent Diaconate Formation Program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 2 — 5 p.m.

Affirmation of N.C. Catholic/Lutheran Covenant  
Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Winston-Salem

Dec. 5 — 1:30 p.m.

Diocesan Building Commission Meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Dec. 6 — 10 a.m.

Diocesan Foundation board meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

# Cardinal calls it a 'real breakthrough' that Orthodox discuss authority

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The "real breakthrough" in a new Catholic-Orthodox dialogue document lies in the fact that the Orthodox were willing to discuss how authority was shared and exercised on a universal level in the early church, said Cardinal Walter Kasper.

The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, spoke Nov. 14 about the document on the unity of the church and how authority is shared and exercised on a local, regional and universal level.

After finalizing the document during a meeting in Ravenna, Italy, members of the dialogue commission planned to release the text Nov. 15. But a Web site associated with the Russian Orthodox Church, whose delegation abandoned the Ravenna meeting, published it in late October.

Cardinal Kasper said that the Catholic delegates were "very saddened and concerned" that the Russians left the meeting, "but the absence of the Russian

Orthodox Church does not take away the validity or the legitimacy of this document."

"The real breakthrough is that for the first time the Orthodox were ready to speak about the universal level of the church," he said, and not simply about the reality of the church on a local or regional level under a patriarch or archbishop.

The document recognizes there must be "synodality" — responsibility exercised by all the bishops together — on the universal level, but also that one bishop must hold the place of honor as the primate and, in the ancient church, that position was held by the bishop of Rome.

The document said, however, that Catholics and Orthodox disagree on how his leadership translated into a concrete exercise of authority and jurisdiction over other bishops.

The Ravenna document, he said, "is an important first step, a basis, but not more."

## Clearing the way for World Youth Day



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

The Royal Randwick Racecourse in Sydney, Australia, is shown in this undated aerial photo. The horse racing venue will be the site of the 2008 World Youth Day vigil and closing Mass in July.

A dispute that threatened the use of the racecourse was resolved with the announcement that the Australian and New South Wales governments will disperse a \$30 million (US\$26.7 million) taxpayer-funded compensation package to the affected parties.

Under the terms of the agreement announced Nov. 15, an additional \$10 million (US\$8.9 million) will be set aside in a contingency fund in case the racecourse is so trashed that it cannot be used for the 2008 racing carnival, which this year had to be canceled due to the outbreak of the highly contagious equine influenza.

Up to half a million people are expected to attend the closing Mass, which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI.

The papal Mass will be the largest single gathering of people ever organized in Australia.



## Awards dinner recognizes Irish-American culture, supports parade

IRISH, from page 1

Irish-American Awards Dinner held at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Nov. 15.

The dinner, which serves as the primary fundraiser for the parade, was organized by the Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade Foundation, a nonprofit group. The awards recognize outstanding individuals who have made cultural, social and professional contributions to the Irish-American community in the Charlotte area.

The event, attended by 125 people, featured live Irish music and performances by Charlotte Irish dance schools. Knights of Columbus honor guards were on hand to escort award winners.

"I thought the evening went very well," said Frank Hart, one of the organizers of the dinner and parade.

"We received a lot of feedback from those who have been to more than one of the dinners, that they felt it was the best yet," he said.

Moirá Quinn, Charlotte Center City Partner's senior vice president for communications and chief operating officer, who served as awards emcee and last year's parade grand marshal, presented O'Boyle with her Irish Person of the Year Award.

Previous grand marshals include Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory and

Principal Jerry Healy of Charlotte Catholic High School.

"I hope to live up to this honor," said O'Boyle, a Charlotte native who has anchored on "A Current Affair" and "Extra," while accepting her award.

The other winners of the night were:

— Irish Civic Leader of the Year: Edward Brynn, history professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and former ambassador to Burkina Faso and Ghana.

— Irish Ambassador of the Year: Kevin Devin, owner of Connolly's on 5th Irish Pub.

— Irish Business Person of the Year: Rosemary Harrington, vice president of First Trust Bank.

— Irish Person in Media: Olivia Fortson, an editor and reporter with the Charlotte Observer.

— Irish Bar Person of the Year: Christine Doherty, a bartender at Tyber Creek Pub.

The 2008 Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held March 15, will also feature the annual Charlotte Goes Green Festival in uptown Charlotte. Approximately 40,000 spectators watched the 2007 parade.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade and festival, visit [www.charlottestpatsday.com](http://www.charlottestpatsday.com).

## Mass on Mount Zion



COURTESY PHOTO

Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, gives a homily during Mass in a chapel at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. The church is considered one of the most important Christian holy places in the world, as it was built over the site of Jesus' crucifixion and his burial tomb.

The visit to the church was part of a diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 6-15. Forty-five people took part in the trip, which toured significant biblical sites including Mount Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Masada, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Deacon Carlos Medina, a permanent deacon at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, assisted Father Hawker at daily Masses at various sites on the pilgrimage.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dancers from Rince na h'Eireann School of Irish Dance perform during the fourth annual Irish-American Awards Dinner at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Nov. 15.

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by Sr. Therese Galligan, R.S.M.

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**8:30 am to noon  
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# Catholic youths keep faith alive at Ohio conference

YOUTHS, from page 1

Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester, N.Y., told participants during the closing ceremony that he hoped the experience was a "profoundly confirming time for you and an expression of the deep love of the church for you."

"And I hope that when you return, you share your experience and tell how your being together in these wonderful days in Columbus has spoken to your heart. The folks back home are very anxious to hear what you have learned and shared about Christ," he added.

Bishop Clark served as celebrant for the closing ceremony in place of Columbus Bishop Frederick F. Campbell who was recovering from foot surgery.

The Washington-based National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry was the conference's sponsor, and the Columbus Diocese was the conference host.

The Rochester bishop also addressed the sadness that overshadowed the conference because of the death of conference participant Veronica Gantt, 16, of Las Vegas, who was killed by a hit-and-run driver in Columbus Nov. 8.

"There has been cause for tears among us through the weekend," Bishop Clark said.

"I have also seen you laugh, be inspired to dance, break into marvelous song, and extend kindness, care and consideration not just to one another, but to the arena staff and the people of Columbus. You have been able to wrap your arms around that which is painful and that which is beautiful," he told them.

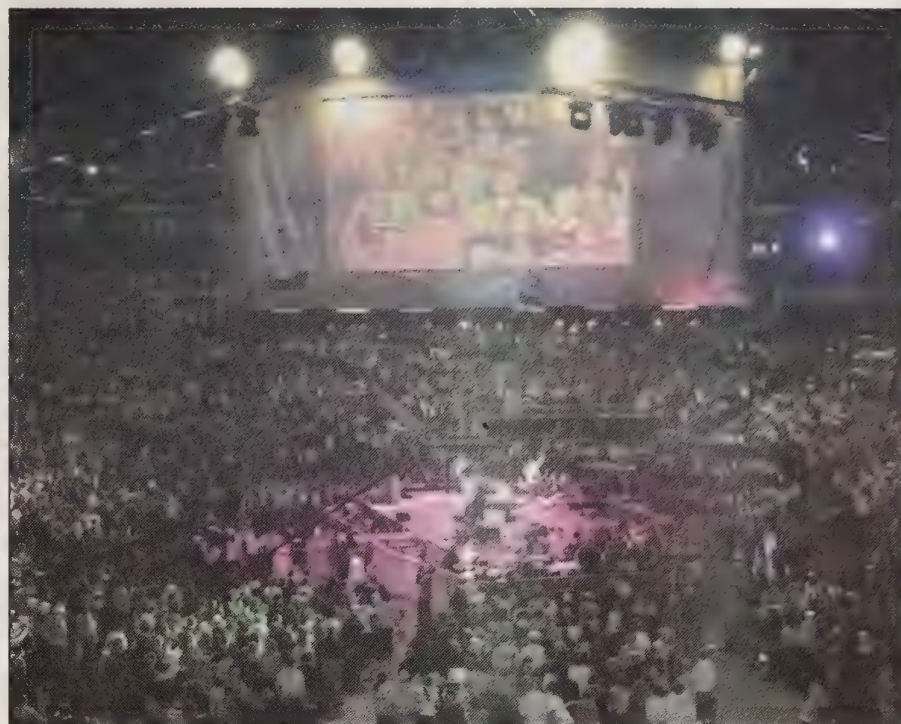
During question-and-answer sessions with the youths, Bishop Clark was joined by seven other bishops who were asked about temptation, heaven, vocations, celibacy, contraception, the Latin-language Mass and the war in Iraq, among other topics.

Participants also had the chance to discuss bullying, dating, sharing the faith with family and friends, Catholic social teaching, deepening one's faith, stress management and tragedy in a variety of panel discussions and workshops.

## Beating back bullying

The workshop on bullying dealt with how to respond to a bully without becoming one and how body language may cause some people to become targets for bullying.

"Kids who have a strong relationship



CNS PHOTO BY JACK KUSTRON, THE CATHOLIC TIMES

A crowd of more than 20,000 young people from across the U.S. gather Nov. 8 in the Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, for the opening session of the 2007 National Catholic Youth Conference. The three-day event featured worship, seminars, a Catholic theme park, music and lots of time for fellowship.

with God seem less likely to get bullied," said workshop presenter Terry Clark of the St. Thomas Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

"They are self-assured, walking with God. If you want to feel less bullied, look up, smile, act like you're happy to be alive. Act like you're a son of God."

"We have a God that understands bullying," Clark said, pointing out that Jesus was "bullied on the way to Calvary like no one else before or since."

"He responded with love. That's the ultimate answer to bullying — love for yourself and love for each other," she added.

During the conference there were also daily liturgies, opportunities to pray in an adoration chapel and opportunities to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

Another highlight was a theme park that featured displays from many Catholic organizations and included a series of webcasts with youths from India, El Salvador and the Philippines.

## Future of the church

Mark Butler, director of the Columbus diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, said the ultimate effect of the conference is likely to be seen in parish youth ministry programs.

"Many parishes don't yet have a youth ministry, and I anticipate many young people will be going back to those parishes wanting to be more active. In the long run, this is going to be a great way to further the cause of youth ministry," he said.

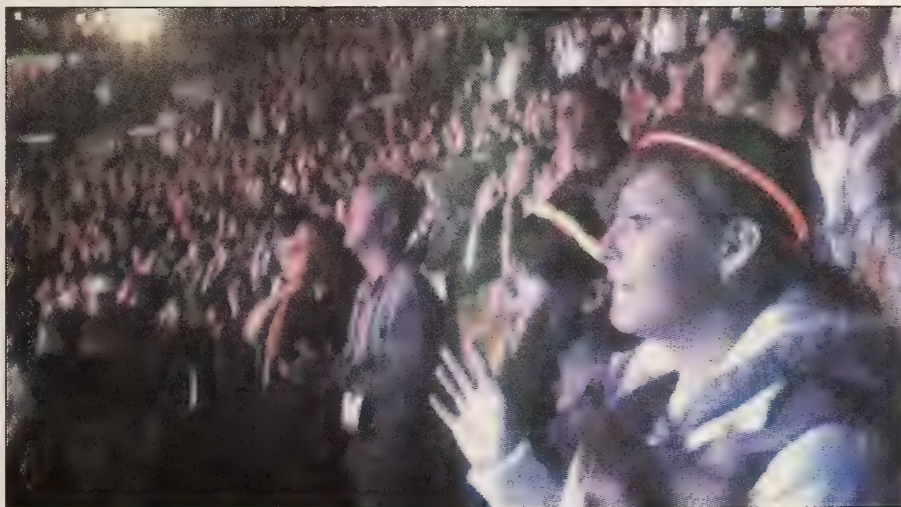
Valerie Johnson, a 15-year-old from St. Paul Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., called the conference "a life-changing experience" primarily because she met so many people from all over the country who "share the same faith."

"It's not just praying and singing all day, like I thought it would be," said Adele Literski, 15, of St. John Fisher Church in the Cincinnati suburb of Newtown.

"There's so much more," she said, noting that the event also provided the chance for participants to play dodgeball and do sumo wrestling.

"And the people have been incredible," she said. "There's just so many of them, and we have so much in common."

Tom Gaier, an adult leader with Adele's group said he was "awed by the energy of 20,000 Catholic youths in one place," and it gave him "a real sense of joy and hope for our church in the 21st century."

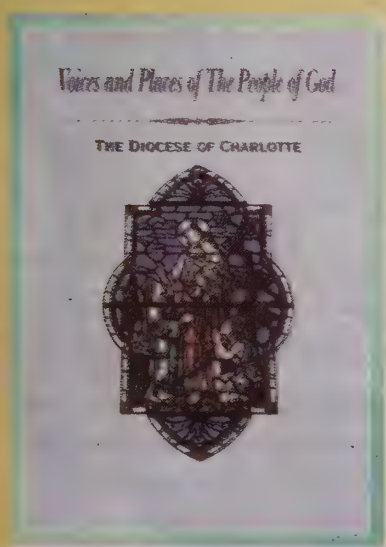


COURTESY PHOTO

Youths from Sacred Heart Church in Brevard are pictured at the Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, during the 2007 National Catholic Youth Conference.

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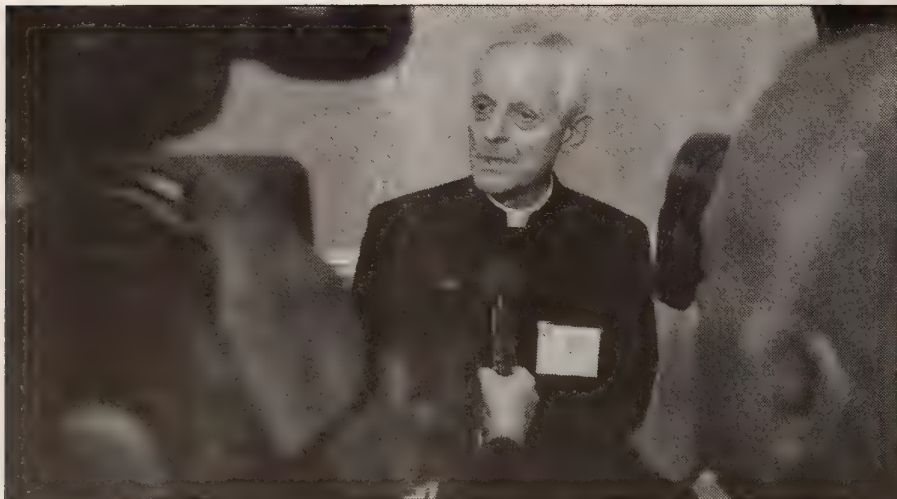
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CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl answers questions from the media on the first day of the U.S. bishops' fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12.

## Archbishop hopes pope's visit will energize people's faith

POPE, from page 1

The archbishop said he believes the emphasis of the pope's trip will be "on the renewal of the faith life of the church."

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the pontiff's April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York — billed as an "Apostolic Visit to the United States of America and to the Seat of the United Nations" — at the Nov. 12 opening session of the U.S. bishops' national meeting in Baltimore.

Pope Benedict's main public event in Washington will be a Mass April 17 at the Washington Nationals' new baseball stadium.

Shortly after the nuncio spoke, Archbishop Wuerl told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese, that the visit "will be an opportunity for all of us in the church in Washington to show the Holy Father our affection, to show him our profound loyalty, but also to demonstrate to him how alive the church in Washington is, how profoundly faith-filled the church is."

He said he and other church officials have been laying the groundwork for the visit since August, but he did not know for sure if it would happen until the nuncio officially announced the planned papal itinerary.

The pope is to arrive in Washington April 15 and meet with President George W. Bush at the White House the following day, which also happens to be the pope's 81st birthday.

That afternoon he will address the U.S. bishops — probably at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Archbishop Wuerl said.

After the stadium Mass April 17, the pope is to meet with heads of Catholic colleges and universities and diocesan education leaders at The Catholic University of America, followed by a meeting with leaders of non-Christian faiths at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

During a midday press conference Nov. 12, Archbishop Wuerl said that in visiting the nation's capital "the Holy Father is attempting to speak to the church throughout the United States."

He said that when it was first announced last summer that the pope was considering a U.N. visit next spring "it seemed appropriate to invite him to Washington."

The fact that the pope would make Washington his first stop "says to me that he sees this as a center representing the entire church in the United States," he said.

Besides being the home of Catholic University and the national shrine, Washington is the location of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters.

He added that the pope's plan to address representatives of Catholic higher education highlights the importance of faith formation and Catholic education in the life of the church.

The archbishop said preparing for the papal visit "will be a lot of work, but it'll be joyful work, because we'll be welcoming the head of the church."

"We'll be welcoming the successor to Peter, and he will come here to say to all of us, 'Be strong in your faith. ... Be a light of the Gospel to this country,'" he said.

Asked how ticket distribution would be handled for the stadium Mass, Archbishop Wuerl said he did not know yet.

"I suspect there will be more people who want to see and be with the pope than there are places at the stadium. ... We have to take into account that there will be people coming from all over the country," he said. "They will not see this as a Washington event. They will see it as a national event."

"I think that we have to make sure that people — especially our young people — get a chance to see him," he added.

"That's going to take some planning on our part, but I think the principle we want to work from is (that) we want to make sure the coming generation of Catholic young people get a chance to see him," he said.

## April Visit

The tentative schedule of Pope Benedict XVI on his first pastoral visit to the United States.

April  
15



WASHINGTON

Arrive in the nation's capital.

16

Official welcome at the White House. Address to U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



17



Mass at the new Nationals baseball stadium. Visit to The Catholic University of America. Interfaith meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

18

NEW YORK

Address to the United Nations. Ecumenical meeting.

19

Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Meeting with youths and seminarians.



20

Visit to ground zero. Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



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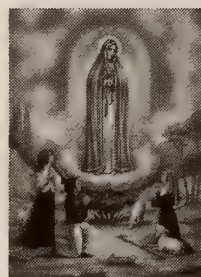
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## Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Father Philip Scarcella (pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption Church) and Deacon Carlos Medina (St. Patrick Cathedral) cordially invite you to join them on a 10-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain, May 1-10, 2008.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila and Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid.

Price from Charlotte: \$2799 (or \$2699 before January 27)

For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965, Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)



## IN THE NEWS

# Care after the collapse

*Church in Chile collects funds to help victims of earthquake*

BY PASCALE BONNEFOY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SANTIAGO, Chile — The Catholic Church has begun collecting funds for the more than 15,000 people left homeless after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake rocked the desert and mining region of Antofagasta, 760 miles north of the capital, Santiago.

The Archdiocese of Antofagasta, through the regional Caritas office, was coordinating with local parishes and the national offices of Caritas Chile to mount a nationwide fundraising campaign for victims of the earthquake.

Two women died and 161 people were injured — 11 seriously — while nearly 4,000 homes were severely damaged or lay practically flat on the ground after the Nov. 14 quake.

Most of the damaged homes were made of adobe.

"People have not only lost their homes, but also many of their belongings, from furniture to kitchen utensils. But to save the costs and complications of transporting donated goods, we are calling on people to donate money that we can convert into

bedsheets, chairs, pots and pans, etc.," said Luis Gonzalez Pizarro, director of Caritas Antofagasta.

Caritas also was collecting information from parishes throughout the region for an estimate of damages to church facilities.

"The problem is that distances are long, and there are isolated areas that can only be reached by helicopter, because roads have been cut off due to landslides," Gonzalez said.

In the midst of powerful aftershocks Nov. 15, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and several Cabinet ministers visited the most devastated areas to assess the damage.

The three most severely hit municipalities — Tocopilla, Maria Elena and Quillagua — were declared disaster zones, allowing for the swift allotment of fiscal and emergency assistance.

"In these kind of situations, people have to help one another," Bachelet said, seeking support from Chileans across the country.

Bachelet announced that within a month the government would complete a registry of which homes need to be



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Residents look at a roof that collapsed on a car after a magnitude 7.7 earthquake in Antofagasta, Chile, Nov. 14.

repaired or demolished, and she promised soft loans and subsidies to help families rebuild their homes.

She also said that the hospital in Tocopilla would be completely rebuilt.

During the quake, two of its floors collapsed, and patients were transferred to other health centers or were being treated on outdoor patios while the

military set up a hospital tent.

In Santiago, the youth vicar, Father Galo Fernandez Villaseca, expressed the church's solidarity with the victims.

"It is painful to know that so many families have lost their homes and are going through a sad moment. We express our solidarity and affection," he said.

## Chilean bishops defend company's refusal to sell morning-after pill

*Salcobrand considers the drug abortive, is appealing \$68,000 fine*

BY PASCALE BONNEFOY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chilean Catholic bishops have defended a Chilean pharmaceutical company's right to refuse to sell the morning-after pill because it considers the drug abortive.

Auxiliary Bishop Fernando Chomali Garib of Santiago, a member of the bishops' bioethics commission, wrote in early November that forcing the pharmaceutical industry to sell the drug is wrong.

At least one pharmaceutical company said the government is forcing it

to sell the drug.

"To force salespeople, pharmacists and pharmacy executives, as well as pharmacy shareholders and owners, to collaborate materially and formally in the sale of a product that is harmful to health ... constitutes not only an abuse of power ... but also an act of intolerance in the name of tolerance," said Bishop Chomali.

"Refusing to participate in an injustice is not only a moral duty, but also a fundamental right," he said.

In mid-October, the Chilean Health Ministry fined three pharmaceutical companies that control 90 percent of the Chilean market for not selling

"Refusing to participate in an injustice is not only a moral duty, but also a fundamental right."

— Auxiliary Archbishop Fernando Chomali Garib of Santiago

Levonorgestrel 0.75 as required by law.

The companies are appealing the fines of \$68,000 each.

One of the companies, Salcobrand, said in a statement that in order to avoid further fines it "was being forced to sell Levonorgestrel ... against our will," because the company considers the pill abortive.

The other two companies claimed that supply problems, not ethical qualms, were inhibiting their sales, and promised to maintain a permanent stock of the drug in their pharmacies.

The Catholic Church and government opposition parties quickly criticized the government for imposing public health policies they consider immoral and reopening the debate over whether or not the drug is equivalent to abortion.

More than a year ago, a similar controversy arose after the government issued guidelines authorizing public health centers to distribute Levonorgestrel 0.75 to minors over age 14 without cost or parental consent.

Bishop Alejandro Goic Karmelic of Rancagua, president of the Chilean bishops' conference, and Bishop Chomali were invited Nov. 6 to present their views before the congressional health commission.

"An issue so important and fundamental like the origin of human

life merits an ample, national debate, and not the imposition of a unilateral point of view," Bishop Goic said.

He told members of Congress that "everyone knows" that the two nongovernmental organizations that helped the Health Ministry prepare the guidelines authorizing free distribution of the pill to teens "are clearly pro-abortion, and their ultimate goal is to have abortion legalized in Chile."

The Public Health Institute authorized the sale and distribution of Levonorgestrel 0.75 in March 2001, when President Michelle Bachelet was minister of health. After a series of legal actions taken by pro-life groups, in 2005 the Supreme Court ruled in favor of its distribution.

It is now part of an official list of drugs that all pharmacies must have available.

The morning-after pill usually prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of sexual intercourse.

It is available over the counter to women over age 18 in the United States and has long been available to victims of rape at U.S. Catholic hospitals, following a pregnancy test and an ovulation test.

The pill's opponents argue that it is abortive because they say it prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg.

In late October, Pope Benedict XVI defended the right of pharmacists to refuse to dispense drugs "which have clearly immoral aims."

Speaking to delegates to an international congress of Catholic pharmacists in Rome Oct. 29, the pope called on them to educate their clients on "the ethical implications of the use of particular drugs."



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## LAYERS DATE BACK ABOUT 1700 YEARS

## As glaciers melt, historical record is lost, says glaciologist

Time lost from the surface down

BY BARBARA J. FRASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HUANCAYO, Peru — An important historical record is being lost as the glaciers melt, said a glaciologist at Ohio State University's Byrd Polar Research Center.

"The ice is the best recorder (of history) that we have," said Lonnie Thompson, who has studied glaciers from Greenland to Antarctica and from the Andes to the Himalayas.

Glaciers accumulate a new layer of snow every winter, just as a tree grows new rings. That layer contains particles of dust, which could indicate a volcanic eruption or a drought, as well as grains of pollen, insects and air bubbles that scientists can sample to determine the exact composition of the atmosphere that year.

From that information, they also can

calculate air temperature.

As more snow accumulates, the ice is compressed, but scientists can still distinguish the layers.

By boring vertically into the ice, Thompson extracts core samples that provide a snapshot of history.

The Quelccaya ice cap in the highlands of Cusco, in southern Peru, which Thompson has been studying since the 1970s when he was a graduate student, contains one of the most unblemished ice records in the world.

The layers date back about 1700 years, but rising temperatures are causing the top of the glacier to melt and refreeze more frequently, blurring the record.

"I think we're going to lose the record from the surface down," Thompson said during a visit to Peru in June. "In places like Kilimanjaro in Africa or Naimonyi in the Himalayas, they're already losing time from the top down."

## Latin American glaciers

GLACIERS, from page 1

human beings," he said.

The Mantaro River Valley, where Huancayo is located, is Peru's breadbasket. The rich soil produces crops for export and food that is sold locally and in Lima, the capital.

Between December and April, there is abundant rainfall in the valley, while snow falls on the white-peaked mountains, where glaciers serve as frozen reservoirs. During the dry season, the slow melting of Andean glaciers provides irrigation and drinking water.

Throughout the Andes Mountains, however, that water supply is threatened because the glaciers are melting faster than snowfall can replenish them.

In Bolivia, the glaciers in the Condoriri mountain range that provide much of La Paz's drinking water have shrunk by 30 percent in the past 20 years. Ecuador's capital, Quito, relies on the rapidly melting Antisana glacier for its drinking water.

In Peru, Huaytapallana's ice cap has retreated by more than 1,000 feet in the past five years.

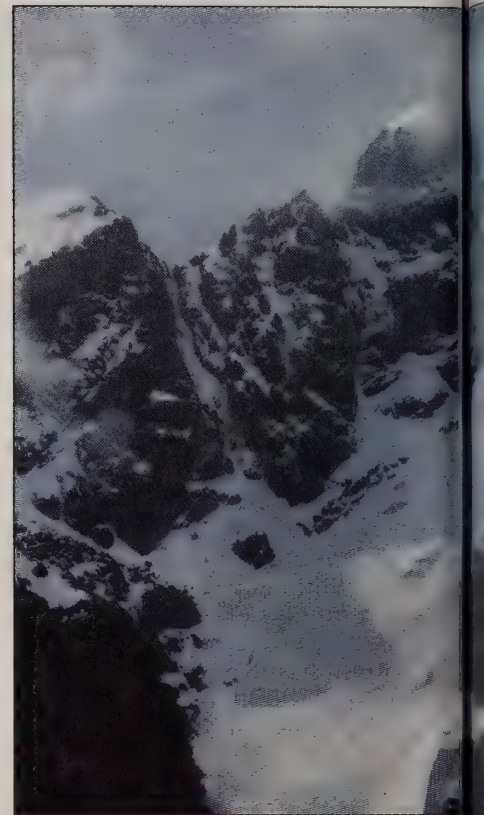
"Blocks of ice that were solid for years are breaking off," Archbishop Barreto told Catholic News Service.

"That indicates a rapid deterioration of Huaytapallana, which is the source of Huancayo's drinking water," he said.

**Diminishing water**

The Andes are unusual because they are located in the tropics, but are high enough to have glaciers. The snow caps on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania are also considered "tropical glaciers."

All have been receding rapidly in the



This is a view of the Cordillera Blanca mountain range, source of irrigation and drinking water for communities in Peru. In 1991 and 2002, alarming scientists and others that

past several decades.

Between 1991 and 2002, the area covered by Andean glaciers shrank by nearly 10 percent, from 2,758 square miles to 2,493 square miles. About 70 percent of the ice is in Peru, with 20 percent in Bolivia and smaller amounts in Ecuador and Colombia.

Venezuela's glaciers are virtually gone. Scientists generally attribute the melting to global climate change, and they say it is probably too late to save most of the Andean glaciers, which could

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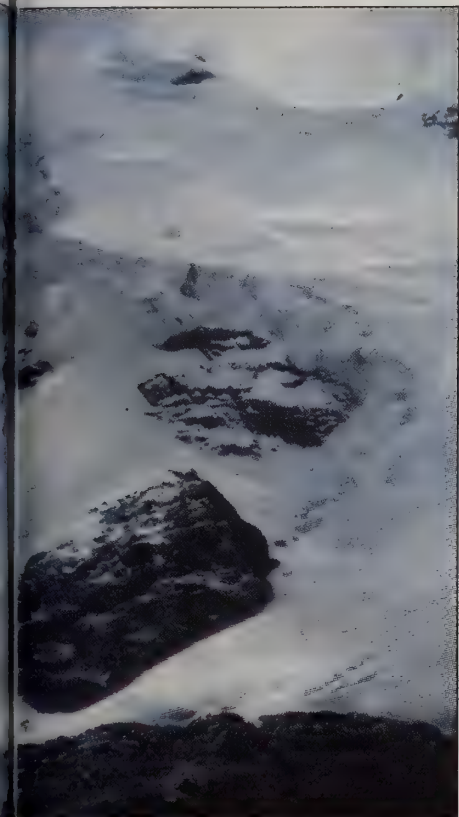
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# en as symbol of God, source of life



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA FRASER

Glaciers in the Andean mountains provide a steady flow of water. Andean glaciers shrank by 10 percent between 1978 and 2007, a decline that could affect water supplies.

disappear within 30 to 50 years, affecting drinking water supplies, agriculture, hydroelectric energy and tourism.

Farmers are already feeling the

pinch, although they do not always recognize it.

In Peru's Ancash department, in the Cordillera Blanca range that takes its name from its snow-capped peaks, there are more and more conflicts between neighbors and communities over water, said Cesar Portocarrero, a civil engineer who works with the nonprofit organization Practical Solutions.

That is an early warning sign of diminishing water supplies, said Portocarrero, who helps communities install more efficient irrigation systems to reduce water use.

At the foot of the Cordillera Blanca, hydroelectric power plants on the Santa River are part of a system that provides 80 percent of Peru's electricity. During the dry season, they depend on glacial runoff for an adequate water flow.

A study issued in June found that the glaciers' disappearance would reduce the capacity of one power plant by at least one-third.

## Once they're gone

The Cordillera Blanca's glaciers are also a tourist attraction, drawing hikers and mountain climbers. Local guides say the mountains have become more unsafe in recent years, and they worry about what will happen when the glaciers are gone.

Similar concerns have been voiced about Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, where 80 percent of the snow has melted, and Glacier National Park in Montana,

"Blocks of ice that were solid for years are breaking off. That indicates a rapid deterioration of Huaytapallana, which is the source of Huancayo's drinking water."

— Huancayo Archbishop Pedro Barreto Jimeno

where only 26 glaciers of the more than 100 recorded in 1912 remain and all could be gone by 2030.

"In many parts of the world, there's an economic side to glaciers," said Lonnie Thompson of Ohio State University's Byrd Polar Research Center.

"Mountaineers and tourists come to see these ice-covered mountaintops. How many of those people will continue to come when the glaciers are gone?" she asked.

Photos that Thompson has taken in the Andes and on Kilimanjaro show how drastically the snowscape has changed.

"When we started serious monitoring (of the Andean ice cap Quelccaya) in 1978, there was very little discussion of global warming," said Thompson, who received this year's U.S. National Medal of Science in July from President George W. Bush.

"People were talking about the next ice age. It was only in the repeat photography that the demise became so clear and that it was

accelerating," she said.

A report issued earlier this year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international group of experts, drew a clear link between climate change and human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels.

The experts said that while industrialized countries are responsible for most of the emissions that are causing the climate to warm, developing countries will suffer most from the effects, which range from disappearing glaciers to the expansion of deserts to rising sea levels that could cause coastal flooding.

In a letter to participants in the seventh symposium of the Religion, Science and the Environment movement Sept. 1, Pope Benedict XVI wrote:

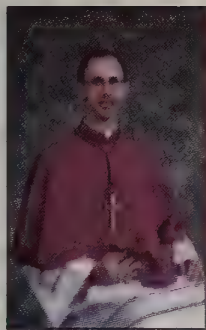
"While it is true that industrializing countries are not morally free to repeat the past errors of others by recklessly continuing to damage the environment, it is also the case that highly industrialized countries must share 'clean technologies' and ensure that their own markets do not sustain demand for goods whose very production contributes to the proliferation of pollution."

In the Andes, where the Quechua people look to the snow-capped mountains for protection, climate change could alter not just the landscape, but also their relationship with the land and with their neighbors, as Portocarrero has seen in the increasing conflicts between communities in the Cordillera Blanca.

In the Quechua culture, "the snow-capped peaks and the earth itself are seen as a gift" from God, Archbishop Barreto said. "It is a relationship of great harmony."

That, he said, is why the pope's 2007 World Peace Day message was so important.

"The pope said that when there is not a harmonious relationship between nature and human beings, and when there is a deterioration of the environment and people's health, there is also a breakdown in human coexistence," the archbishop said.



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## 'Complete icon' of church liturgy Vatican official presents book discussing papal liturgies in detail

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Recent papal liturgies have heightened awareness that the Catholic Church finds its fullest expression in celebrating the Eucharist and that it gathers people of every nation, language and culture, said the archbishop who coordinated the celebrations.

Archbishop Piero Marini served as master of papal liturgical ceremonies for 20 years until his Oct. 1 appointment as president of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses.

During a Nov. 9 conference sponsored by the Vatican publishing house, Archbishop Marini presented three thick books discussing in minute detail the sometimes-controversial choice of prayers, vestments, language, music and gestures used at Vatican liturgies from the Holy Year 2000 to the inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI's papacy.

The books, written under Archbishop Marini's direction, offer the texts of and commentary on the liturgies of the Holy Year, for the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II and the inauguration of the pontificate of Pope Benedict.

"The celebrations commented upon, thanks also to the media, remain impressed on the memory of innumerable faithful," Archbishop Marini told the conference, and "they are, in my opinion, the most complete icon of the adapted liturgy of the church after the Second Vatican Council."

Archbishop Marini said it was important for his office and its liturgical and theological consultants to document the liturgies and the studies behind them in order to demonstrate how they conformed to "the changed mentality created by the liturgical reform desired by the Second Vatican Council," highlighting "the principles of active participation in the liturgy, adaptation and the need for the historical study of the liturgy."

The volumes, Archbishop Marini said, "are eloquent witnesses that the servant of God, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI have and continue to confirm the holy people of God in the faith, proclaiming the word and celebrating the sacred mysteries."

In the introduction to the book on the Holy Year liturgies, Archbishop Marini wrote that the central figure in each liturgy was Jesus Christ and his saving action.

But the liturgies also highlighted the fact that the church, the sign and sacrament of unity in Christ, is truly catholic in its composition, "able to welcome different cultures and open to all," he said.

The Holy Year liturgies were among the most controversial, and the book explains how the various liturgical dances

and the use of instruments such as a Japanese koto, a horn made of an elephant tusk, and a conch shell were chosen to emphasize the Holy Year pilgrimage of all the world's Catholics toward a renewed commitment to Christ.

Monfort Missionary Father Corrado Maggioni, an official in the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said the liturgies studied in the books "are liturgies of primary importance" because "the papal liturgy, a liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica, must be the exemplary liturgy for all."

The books, he said, "aim to bring a patient reader into the particular experiences of worship, explaining the meaning of the rituals."

The liturgical celebrations presided over by the pope are unique, because his ministry is unique and because he brings to the altar the prayers of the entire church around the world, Msgr. Maggioni said.

"Unity and catholicity find expression in the papal liturgy with the variety of languages — Latin and local languages — and adaptations for people who come from different cultural and ritual backgrounds," he said.

Beauty is one of the most important elements in liturgy, Msgr. Maggioni said.

"There is a beauty in the liturgy that is invisible to the eye and must come before and be reflected in the simple beauty" of the rite used, he said.

The aim, he said, is "noble beauty, not sumptuousness."

As an example of how simple prayers, gestures, vestments and furnishings heighten the beauty of the liturgy, he pointed to the 2005 funeral of Pope John Paul, planned by Archbishop Marini.

"Where was the beauty in that Mass?" he asked. "The beauty present was in that which the love of God accomplished in and through John Paul II for the entire church and the entire world."

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## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 2, 2007

### Dec. 2, First Sunday of Advent

#### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122:1-9
  - 2) Romans 13:11-14
- Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

### Advent celebrations, liturgies prepare us for Jesus return

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the fall of 1992, I went to Germany to visit my brother and his family who were stationed at Ramstein Air Base.

While there one of their friends, a beautiful German woman named Monika, invited us to dinner. That evening she and I hit it off and ended up spending quite a bit of time together during the rest of my trip.

I returned to Texas wondering what would come of that budding romance. So before the Internet and low-cost, long-distance phone calls, we embarked on a trans-continental relationship.

When she came to visit the next spring, I popped the question and she said yes.

Over the next year we saw each other only once, petitioning the U.S. government then for a fiancé visa. We were told it would be from three to 12 months before we would learn if the visa was granted.

When Monika got on the plane to go home, we had no idea when we would

see each other again. But we knew that when that day came it would be the happiest of our lives.

However, the wait was excruciating.

The Gospel for the first week of Advent gives some insight into how to handle such situations. Jesus, like the Boy Scout motto, calls us to always be prepared: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

Here the promise of Jesus' return is made, but the when and how has yet to be revealed.

I wish I could wait for Jesus' return with the same intense, focused anticipation I had waiting for Monika to return to Texas. But in the midst of the daily grind it can be hard to keep the Lord's second coming at the forefront of our minds.

To help us, the church brings us Advent, a season of preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming 2,000 years ago and his promised return in glory.

While I waited for Monika's return, I prepared her way with letters, cards, gifts and other creative things. These efforts helped keep the connection strong until our glorious reunion.

Similarly, Advent with its various celebrations and liturgies commemorating Jesus' initial coming prepares our hearts for his return.

#### Questions:

What are the things you do to prepare for the celebration of Christmas each year? What are some things that we can do to stay prepared for the return of Jesus?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 25-DEC. 1

**Sunday (Christ the King)**, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday**, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Daniel 3:52-56, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel 3:57-61, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Daniel 3:62-67, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Daniel 6:12-28, Daniel 3:68-74, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday (St. Andrew)**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Saturday**, Daniel 7:15-27, Daniel 3:82-87, Luke 21:34-36.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 2-8

**Sunday (First Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday (St. Francis Xavier)**, Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (St. John of Damascus)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Nicholas)**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (St. Ambrose)**, Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38.

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## Faith on aisle five

*Catholic and Bible-themed toys take their place on the market*

BY LESLIE O'MALLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Every year as December approaches, retailers begin stocking their shelves and filling their Web sites with toys.

This year, Moses and the baby Jesus will share space with action figures and fashion dolls.

A test run of three lines of toys based on stories from the Old and New Testaments started this summer at a select group of Wal-Mart stores and Target.com. The tests will continue through January.

These lines, produced by one2believe toys, include "Tales of Glory" figurine sets, "Messengers of Faith" figures and "Spirit Warriors" action figures.

Each toy comes with a small storybook of a well-known Bible story, such as Noah's Ark, David and Goliath, the birth of Jesus, and Jesus walking on water.

The select Wal-Marts will display the toys on the preschool aisle because the chain felt they were good items for that age range, said Melissa O'Brien, in a written statement from Wal-Mart's corporate communications department.

This is the first time Wal-Mart has carried a line of "faith-based toys," and the company will decide if it will continue or expand the offering based on customer response, O'Brien said.

Robert Winzerling, a Wal-Mart toy department manager in North Little Rock, said his store has been selling out every case of the Bible characters they've been getting.

He thinks the market for this type of toy comes from parents.

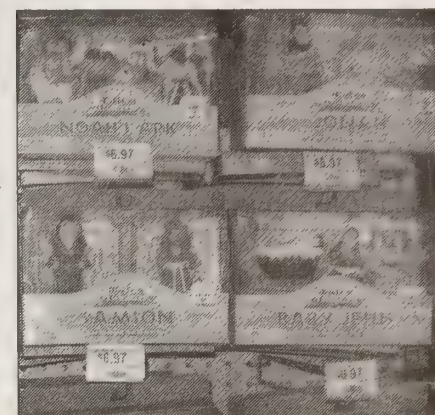
"I've heard mothers talk, especially that they didn't care for (some of the) action figures. They didn't like what it represented and wanted something more wholesome," he said.

That's exactly what inspired David Socha, founder of one2believe toys, the company that introduced the faith-based toys two years ago.

"We're trying to bring resources to parents that are wholesome and of God," Socha said.

He got his start in the toy business as a child when his parents ran a gift shop in Buffalo, N.Y. The best-selling figure in his company's faith-based line is a Jesus figure.

"I was surprised at that," Socha said.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ONE2BELIEVE

"Tales of Glory" figurine sets, which include toys and small books based on Bible stories, are seen in a display at a Wal-Mart store in Bentonville, Ark., in late September.

"It has really caught us off guard. It'll probably be completely sold out."

The next best-seller is the Nativity set, but Socha's favorite is Samson, whom he describes as "the toughest guy in the toy box."

Right now the company has another 75 products in development and is focusing on toys for girls. It plans to introduce a line of Bible princesses such as Ruth, Deborah and Miriam with a "focus on biblical strength."

Other religious toys available online include characters from the Catholic prayer-based "Holy Baby" DVD series created by Wayne and Dede Laugesen of Boulder, Colo.

The characters — Baby Scholastica and Baby Bosco — are fashioned after saints for whom they are named.

The toys are available at Catholic gift stores in the Boulder area. The couple's newest product is a puzzle rosary featuring breakaway clasps between each decade.

"There is nothing else like it on the market," Dede Laugesen said, noting that the rosary can be "taken apart and used for family prayer."

This past summer the Laugesens took some samples of the rosary to the Catholic Marketing Network Conference where they sold hundreds of them.

"People saw them as practical, as well as fun," Laugesen said. "They flew off our table."

Contributing to this story was John Gleason in Boulder, Colo.

## Stars, fans attend Goulet funeral service at Nevada Catholic church

LAS VEGAS (CNS) — Stars and fans alike turned out to remember singer-actor Robert Goulet at a funeral service for him at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer in Las Vegas Nov. 9.

News reports said mourners filled about half of the 2,200 seats in what is the largest Catholic church in Nevada.

Goulet, whose rich baritone voice made him an instant success when he played Lancelot in the original 1960 Broadway hit "Camelot," died Oct. 30

in a Los Angeles hospital of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. He was awaiting a lung transplant. He was 73.

His long career as a singer and an actor encompassed theater, radio, television and film. He was a winner of Grammy and Tony awards.

Raised a Catholic, he was born in Lawrence, Mass., Nov. 26, 1933. During his career he starred in 17 movies and made 24 albums. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in California.



## Can-do attitude at Thanksgiving



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro are pictured sorting donated food items in Our Lady of Grace Church Nov. 19. Each year, members of Our Lady of Grace Church and School collect items to provide 100 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. Different parish ministries and school grade levels are assigned a variety of items to donate for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Students then help collect the items and separate them for each family.

Pictured are Dillon Quinn, Joe Gilberto, Michael Hall, Spencer Pasciolla and Samantha Elam.

## Student serenade



COURTESY PHOTO

Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students at St. Ann School in Charlotte serenade the audience of 175 parents and grandparents as part of their Thanksgiving celebration Nov. 16. The celebration included music, coffee and dessert. The students sang again for the student body after Mass at St. Ann Church Nov. 19.

## Students help bring Thanksgiving to others



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-grade students from St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured Nov. 8 on the back of a truck in which they loaded canned goods they collected for the middle school students' Annual November Food Drive. The students coordinated the collection of food pantry items and raised money to buy chickens for the Greensboro Servant Center's grocery assistance program. As a result of the students' efforts, 205 families were to receive Thanksgiving dinner.

## 'Helping Hands' help to brighten worthy cause



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students from Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem assemble luminary kits to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities Nov. 13. As part of the school's community outreach program, "Helping Hands of Mercy," the students assembled 2,600 kits, each of which will sell for \$5 with 100 percent of the proceeds supporting Ronald McDonald House clients — families in need of affordable housing while children are hospitalized.

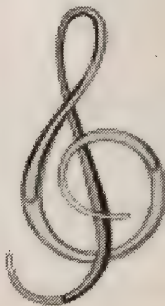
### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

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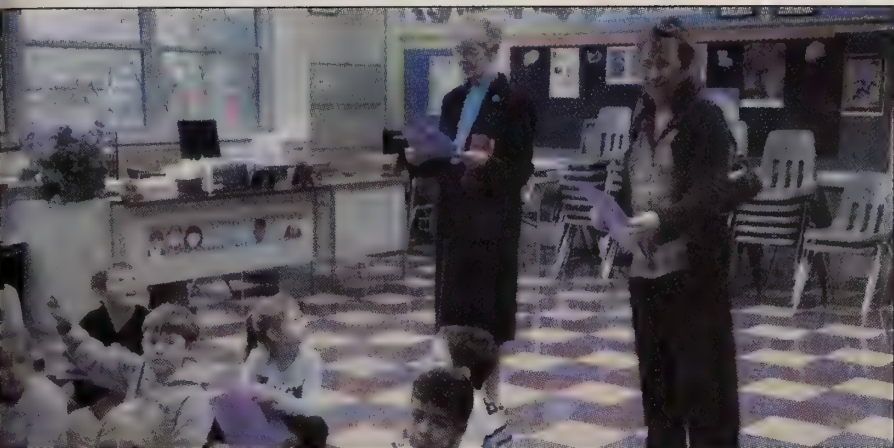


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Kim Richards (pictured right), star of the one-woman comedic play "Late Nite Catechism," visits St. Ann School in Charlotte Oct. 26. Also pictured is Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School.

## 'Sister' visits students, faculty

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Kim Richards, star of the one-woman comedic play "Late Nite Catechism," visited St. Ann School in Charlotte Oct. 26. The play had a 12-night run at the Booth Playhouse in Charlotte in October.

During her show, Richard's character, "Sister," quizzes audience members on their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Throughout the course of the class, the benevolent instructor rewards her students for correct answers with glow-

in-the-dark rosaries and other prizes. At the conclusion of each performance, Sister takes up a collection for retired women religious. Each week's after-performance revenue is designated for a specific order. The show's first week benefited the Sisters of Mercy of the Carolinas in Belmont. The second week's collection benefited the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pa., and totaled \$5,200. The staff of St. Ann School hosted a lunch for Richards in appreciation of her choosing the Sisters of St. Joseph for the collection.

## Dr. Elinor Ford receives NCEA award

*Catholic educational association recognizes teacher who has transformed educators*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. Elinor Ford received the President's Award from the National Catholic Educational Association during the association's 17th annual awards dinner in Washington, D.C., Oct. 1. The President's Award recognizes a teacher who has challenged and transformed fellow educators to reach a higher level of professionalism.

Ford, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, has long been a supporter and champion of those who serve and lead ministries within Catholic education and parishes.

She was the first woman appointed as superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of New York, a system that at the time served about 200 elementary and 80 secondary schools.

Following this position she chaired the archdiocesan Council for Religious Education and established the NCEA's first national Catholic parent organization.

At the same time she was a full professor in the graduate education department at Fordham University. While there she directed the nonpublic school program for administrators and founded the doctoral program for church leaders in collaboration with Fordham's Department of Religion and Religious Education.

Ford then became publisher, president and chief executive officer of the William H. Sadlier Company,



Dr. Elinor Ford

which publishes catechetical and educational publications.

She has written numerous leadership, educational, mathematics and catechetical articles, books and materials. She has conducted church leadership, teacher, catechist, clergy and parish family programs for dioceses and other groups.

Today she is a consultant and speaker for national and international catechetical, educational, parish, stewardship, clergy and health care groups in the United States, Canada and Europe.

In 1995, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association honored her for contributions to and support of Canadian Catholic education. In 1996, she received the Msgr. John Meyer Award from NCEA for her support of Catholic education.

In 1997, Today's Catholic Teacher magazine named her one of the 25 most influential people in Catholic education over the past 25 years.

## Extraordinary legacies



COURTESY PHOTO

Felipe Villalon accepts his Distinguished Hall of Fame honor during homecoming at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Oct. 6.

## Bishop McGuinness honors distinguished alumni during homecoming weekend

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness High School celebrated homecoming weekend with its fifth annual Hall of Fame and fourth annual Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremonies Oct. 6.

"The legacies of all these exceptional individuals are a gift of extraordinary value to the life and the living memory of this school," said Principal George Repass.

The Athletic Hall of Fame honored Elissa Bergevin, a 1986 graduate, and Gene Thomas, a 1987 graduate.

Bergevin's induction was presented posthumously, as she died in a car accident while stationed in Germany in 1993. Her brother, Eric, accepted on her behalf.

While at Bishop McGuinness, Bergevin played softball and volleyball. As a sophomore, she was recruited to play volleyball at West Point Military Academy.

While in the U.S. Army, she was sponsored for the Olympic volleyball team.

Thomas was a baseball and basketball player at Bishop McGuinness — he helped his teams win one state championship in basketball and three in baseball.

Thomas was awarded Male Athlete of the Year and is among the top 10 players with the highest scoring average

in a season (25.8) and for most points scored in a season (801).

The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame honored Felipe Villalon, a 1964 graduate.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Villalon had a successful 30-year career in the international division at Wachovia Bank in Winston-Salem. He is currently a senior vice president for the international services division of BB&T in Greensboro.


After graduation, Villalon remained involved with Bishop McGuinness, serving on the school's board of education and as chairman of the Alumni Relations Committee.

He was instrumental in the establishment of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame program. His children have since graduated from Bishop McGuinness.

Bishop McGuinness was recognized in 2006 as one of the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the United States by the Catholic High School Honor Roll.

### WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about Bishop McGuinness, visit [www.bmhs.us](http://www.bmhs.us).



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Thinking of poverty, building bridges

*Holidays a good time to begin making changes in world*

During the after-dinner talk, my mind started to wander. My eye traveled around the lavishly appointed hotel ballroom. It had enormous crystal chandeliers and brocade fabric on the walls.

It was a beautiful space, but in so many ways ordinary. It was like hundreds of other elegant hotel ballrooms.

My mind started to wander to other places. I thought of places of poverty and privation I have visited. I thought of places where sanitation was poor and trash was seen as a resource.

I remembered barrios in rural Mexico where I was fed rice and beans in tiny adobe houses with corrugated metal roofs. I thought of villages in Africa, in places like Malawi and Ethiopia, where I have spent the night in mud huts.

I thought of the meals that the poor so generously set before me.

I also thought of abandoned people. I remembered the orphanages I visited in Romania. I remembered those with Hansen's disease I had worked with briefly in Africa.

I thought of people I had seen lying on cots in a makeshift hospital in Ethiopia in the midst of a cholera epidemic. I thought of polio victims I had seen crawling down the roads in Malawi.

How can all these people dwell on the same planet? How can it be said that the rich and the poor are all children of the same God?

Can it be fairly said that they all deal with the same reality? Does God really hear the cry of the poor?

This holiday season is a good time to wonder about these things.

I find myself most grateful for the chances I am given to see life in all its contrasts.

I have seen the inside of a banana worker's house in Costa Rica. I have stayed in a public housing project in Mexico City. I have shared a meal in a

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



shack on the edge of the city dump in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

The life of a Catholic priest in America is one of privilege. If we want, we can dwell only in comfort.

But it is also true that we can see the whole of the human condition.

The pope is called the pontifex maximus: the supreme bridge builder.

He may be the top bridge builder, but I think every priest, indeed every Christian, is meant to be a bridge builder, too.

We are meant to be a bridge between peoples, to connect the poor to the rich.

I have the feeling that our Lord would want his priests to be bridge builders. He would want us all to connect the farm owner with the migrant worker.

He would want us to bring together the day trader with the day laborer, the lawyer and the landscaper, the professor and the housekeeper.

During the holidays, most of us are surrounded by excess. But I also think the Lord would want our minds to wander beyond our heavily laden tables and our own comfortable surroundings.

He would want us to see other places, where Lazarus lies at the gate.

I, for one, have no excuse. I know what lies outside the brocade-covered walls of the ballroom. The Lord has given me the privilege of seeing life in all its forms.

For that I am truly grateful.

## Being with people in success

*True friendship means sharing in both good times and bad*

The day my brother's house caught fire, he maintained his composure well.

He rushed home from work when he heard that the roofers had unwittingly left something smoldering when they packed up and departed.

My sister-in-law was home with a brand-new baby and a toddler. She got the kids out of the house, called 911 and then my brother.

Fortunately, the house was saved and everyone was safe.

The neighbors came running, and when my brother's boss heard about it, he came over, too, and quietly handed my brother a large wad of cash to help out.

After all he'd been through, that's when my brother broke down and shed some tears.

Have you ever noticed that in the midst of crisis, it's often the kindness of others that brings out the greatest emotion?

We can be pretty tough in times of trouble, but when people respond generously to our plight, we crack.

I thought of this when I was listening to a news story about the San Diego fires. A family was searching through the rubble of their home for a keepsake when friends came upon the scene with shovels determined to help them clean up and move on.

As the woman of the family talked about their loss, it was when she got to this part — the part where friends come with shovels — that her voice broke and she began to weep, so moved was she by their love and faithfulness.

Now, you might think the point of this column is to encourage all of us to respond with love and faithfulness to our friends in need. Who could argue with that? Indeed, that's a hallmark of friendship.

But I think friendship is about something else, too, something that's sometimes harder for us but marks true friendship just as much as — or more than — showing up with the shovel or the wad of cash.

I think we're only as true a friend as our willingness to sincerely rejoice in the

## For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



achievements — the good times — of our friends and relatives.

And even though we can appear to do this on the surface, sometimes our hearts aren't quite as open to the success of others as we'd like.

When someone is down and out, when we feel pity, we want to help.

But when a friend is at the top of his game, the king of the world, that's when a tiny drop of envy may seep into us.

Are we quick with a note of congratulations, with a sincere wish that his good luck continue, with a heart full of happiness at his success?

We try to be the kind of people who root for our friends. But a nagging little voice can tug at us down deep, asking if maybe there's a twinge of jealousy or a little resentment behind our good wishes.

Is it easy to stand by people when they're down because somewhere inside we're glad we aren't in their spot?

Is it hard to be genuinely happy for people's success because somewhere inside we're insecure about our own success?

For me, this little dark spot inside, this little crack where jealousy rears its head, is a good place to bring to God in prayer.

Sometimes even the kings of the world feel a little insecure. That's another reason to point out what a great job they're doing, to encourage, to praise.

They may not respond with tears, but they will have a joyful sense that they have that priceless thing: a true friend.

## A lesson from the U.S. bishops on how to vote

From the television came a booming voice, promoting the next debate of presidential candidates: "The gloves come off for this one."

Great. So much for offering any expectation that character and substance will be a part of the next eleven months.

We need thoughtfulness; we are given a metaphorical boxing match.

It is time, as the U.S. bishops said, for "a different kind of political engagement," free of "powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites and media hype."

By an overwhelming majority, the bishops adopted Nov. 14 "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

"This document is a summary of Catholic teaching; it is not a voter's

## Extra! Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



guide," said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chair of the committee which drafted it. "It calls us as bishops to help form consciences for political life, not tell people how to vote."

The document is directed to Catholic voters, "not Catholic politicians," noted Bishop DiMarzio.

This distinction is critical, for it presents the proper role of the bishops in the church: as teachers — not tyrants or

dictators — laying out the principles of faith against which issues and candidates are to be judged.

"Catholics may choose different ways to respond to compelling social problems, but we cannot differ on our moral obligation to help build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected and human rights and dignity are defended," the document says.

All Catholics "have a responsibility to discern carefully which public policies are morally sound," the document says.

A Catholic cannot not be a Catholic anymore than a rock cannot not be a rock. It's not something that can be turned on or off at the door to a legislative chamber.

John Kerry, a Catholic and former presidential candidate, said recently that he understands the bishops' role is

teaching that all life is sacred. But he also said he saw no contradiction in saying that he is both pro-choice and anti-abortion. (Substitute the word "gravity" after the hyphens in the above and see how much sense that makes.)

Expecting the elimination of sound bites, media hype and partisan attacks may exceed reasonable hope. But we should welcome the fact that someone is serious about issues and candidates by putting forth a document based on facts, principle and issues. A group of people who give thousands of hours to an issue cannot be dismissed as some bunch of out-of-it clerics imposing their sectarian dogma upon the populace.

The bishops are not dictating who to vote for but are instructing us on how to vote: by understanding the moral principles of our faith, understanding the candidates' positions and matching them up.



# To experience the miraculous healings

*The 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance at Lourdes*

The miraculous healings that have taken place for decades in the little French village of Lourdes, France have always fascinated me.

The year 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of the great miracle of Lourdes when Mary appeared to a simple 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous. A steady stream of pilgrims have been coming to Lourdes to honor Mary since then and to pray for healing.

I was delighted a few months ago when Kathleen Stauffer, the president and publisher of Catholic Digest, invited me to be the chaplain on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008. She explained that Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, D.C., agreed to be the spiritual director of this pilgrimage.

I was honored to accept the invitation.

It will be my job, among other things, to give three weekly talks on Mary. This would be a wonderful way for me to honor the mother of Our Lord as well as pray for my own spiritual and physical needs.

When Mary first appeared to Bernadette, she told her to drink from a previously invisible fountain of water that

sprung up spontaneously from the ground. Bernadette returned to report the incident.

Doubting church officials told her to go back and ask the lady's name.

"I am the Immaculate Conception," was the reply.

Ever since that day the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption have led annual pilgrimages to Lourdes on Aug. 15, the feast of Mary's assumption into heaven.

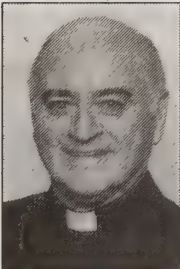
The Augustinians own the Catholic Digest. As such, the two decided to combine their efforts to lead an American pilgrimage to Lourdes to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the apparition and the miraculous healings.

From the beginning, thousands upon thousands of pilgrims have flocked to Lourdes. Many of them returned home cured of their maladies.

The church's teaching on this is quite positive. On Dec. 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX solemnly declared in a papal bull entitled "Ineffabilis Deus" ("Indescribable God") that "the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



of Christ Jesus, savior of the human race, was preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

This privilege was not merely a personal gift to Mary, unrelated to her mission. Mary's twofold vocation was to receive Jesus into her body and to give him away to the world for the salvation and sanctification of God's people.

Both the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and that of the Assumption of Mary into heaven tell us that we, too, are destined for glory, not merely as pure spirits but as humans in glorified bodies.

After death, both body and soul will be reunited for eternal life.

I extend to you this personal invitation to visit Lourdes during this 150th anniversary year. The U.S. bishops have encouraged dioceses to consider a pilgrimage to Lourdes as a way of honoring Mary and increasing devotion to her.

Perhaps I will see you there. God bless you.

# The formula for lasting peace in the Middle East

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



As I passed the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., something seemed funny. Capitol Hill police cars were parked on the lawn instead of on the street, and police helicopters were sputtering overhead.

It wasn't until I was a few blocks from the mall that I realized a large march was taking place on Pennsylvania Avenue. Loud cries of "Bring home the troops!" rang in the street, and signs against the war in Iraq were everywhere. Riot police lined the parade of marchers who were a sea of youthful enthusiasts, middle-age adults and hobbling elders — all moving slowly toward the Capitol.

As they passed I wondered whether we would ever see an end to Middle East conflicts. Even if U.S. troops came home, governments stabilized somewhat and opposing sides began to talk to one another, will this ultimately create lasting peace?

The frightening thought hit me that the only thing to bring peace might be a catastrophic event that brings everyone to their knees, that we might need to hit bottom in order to come up.

On my way home, I passed the House of Representatives. Over its entrance is the frieze, "The Apotheosis of Democracy." At its center stands Armed Peace protecting the youthful figure of Genius nestled at her feet. On her sides are Agriculture and Industry, a reaper and his helper, a husbandman and a cow, a child garlanded with fruits of the harvest and another child playing with a ram.

The frieze is bounded on both ends by waves symbolizing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This masterpiece pictures the love, peace and prosperity upon which the United States was built. It symbolizes that lasting peace relies on industry, agriculture and maritime trade.

It also represents people who work the land and the sea, and who work not only to create prosperity but to receive nobility. Work begets identity and dignity.

Many of today's terrorists were spawned by poverty. They have little or no work, no prosperity to look forward to, and no dignity except that of belonging to a gang of terrorists. The work and prosperity that bless ordinary people are virtually non-existent for them.

In our lifetimes we have had civil strife, but we have never reverted to the level of terrorism the Middle East experiences. In large part, this is because we believe every person has a right to work, and we are blessed in most cases with jobs. Agriculture, industry and maritime trade are the genius behind peace in the United States. Even more so, they are the formula for creating a lasting peace in the Middle East.

# A disease that 'affects us all'

## Marking World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2007

Another day, another cause. That's what World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 each year can seem like, especially if this is a cause that doesn't appear to have much of an impact on your loved ones or you.

The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African American Catholics — to become part of the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church as of January 2008 — has a direct response to that point of view concerning AIDS/HIV: "If it infects one of us ... it affects all of us."

Among the resources the secretariat offers to help educate Catholic families about HIV/AIDS is a nine-question pop quiz. Here's a sampling from it. See how much you know:

**1. How many people in the world are living with HIV and AIDS?**

a. 2 million  
b. 12 million  
c. 40 million

**2. What percentage of people with HIV and AIDS are in the developing world?**

a. 50 percent  
b. 80 percent  
c. 95 percent

**3. How many children in Ethiopia have been orphaned by AIDS?**

a. 80,000  
b. 240,000  
c. 720,000

The answer to all three is "c."

The final question offers the reminder that it isn't just the one who has HIV or AIDS who suffers; it's that person's loved ones, too.

In some ways, HIV/AIDS can seem like old news in the United States. Then, too, many current facts and statistics have to do with "over there," not "here." Or with "them and theirs," not "us and ours."

The secretariat notes, "Images associated with HIV and AIDS suggest that HIV is an 'African disease,' 'a gay plague' or a 'junkie's disease.'"

Simply put, we can adopt the attitude that "it's not my problem."

This is hardly what we as parents want to teach our children. Hardly what we as Catholics claim to profess.

What can a family do? What can you do? A few suggestions:

— Pray for those who have HIV or AIDS. Pray for their loved ones. Pray for the children now orphaned because of AIDS. For the spouses, parents, siblings, sons, daughters and friends who grieve.

— Learn more about HIV and AIDS and the tremendous and tragic impact they have on communities and nations.

— Contribute to organizations that are helping alleviate the suffering.

— Wear a red ribbon on World AIDS Day Dec. 1, 2007.

From "Pray with the Church for All Who Suffer from HIV or AIDS":

## Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS  
CNS COLUMNISTS



"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, ... many of us are now suffering with HIV or AIDS.

"We come before you and ask you, if it is your holy will, to take away this suffering from us, restore us to health and lead us to know you and your powerful healing, love of body and spirit.

"We ask you also to be with those of us who nurse your sick ones. We are the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children and friends of your suffering people. It is so hard for us to see those whom we love suffer.

"You know what it is to suffer. Help us to minister in loving care, support and patience to your people who suffer with HIV and AIDS. Amen."

### WANT MORE INFO?

Learn more from USCCB's Secretariat for African American Catholics. Go to [www.usccb.org/saac/wad.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/saac/wad.shtml).



# Calling for charity after cyclone catastrophe

## Pope urges international aid for victims of cyclone in Bangladesh

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI urged international assistance for Bangladesh, where thousands were killed in one of the worst cyclones in the country's history.

"In recent days a tremendous cyclone struck southern Bangladesh, causing numerous victims and serious destruction," the pope told pilgrims at his Sunday blessing at the Vatican Nov. 18.

The pope expressed his condolences to the families of the dead and said he hoped the international community, which moved quickly to aid the survivors, would continue to provide relief.

"I encourage every possible effort to help these brothers and sisters who have been so sorely tried," he said.

Officials estimated that at least 3,100 people died when the cyclone tore through coastal areas of Bangladesh Nov. 15 with winds estimated at 150 mph. Relief agencies said the final death toll could reach 10,000.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the head of the nation's charitable agency said Caritas officials were rushing aid to areas along the coast.

"Though there were warnings of the cyclone, its impact has been deadly. The people have been badly affected," Auxiliary Bishop Theotonius Gomes of Dhaka, chairman of Caritas Bangladesh and secretary-general of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh, told Catholic News Service Nov. 19.

Bishop Gomes said Caritas officials had rushed to the worst-affected areas like the port city of Chittagong to assess the needs of the affected people and plan the church's relief work.

Caritas Bangladesh appealed for food aid and tarpaulins (plastic sheeting) and blankets to provide shelter to the families rendered homeless by the cyclone.

"Crops have been destroyed in water-logged areas, fishermen communities and day laborers have lost their sources of income, and thousands of people are too poor to have any food stocks in their homes," said the appeal.

Caritas said its national, regional and field offices had taken preventive measures and joined in cautioning the villagers along the coastlines to flee the coastal areas.

Many villagers could find no trace

"Though there were warnings of the cyclone, its impact has been deadly."

— Auxiliary Bishop  
Theotonius Gomes

of their homes when they returned the next day.

Bishop Gomes said although many simple church structures in the areas have also been damaged there has been no report of damage to any major church properties.

Meanwhile, the international Caritas network responded with pledges of financial assistance. For instance, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, initially pledged \$50,000 in aid.

Christians make up less than 1 percent of Bangladesh's estimated 150 million people, nearly 90 percent of whom are Muslim; Hindus and Buddhists account for the rest of the population.

In his main talk at the Sunday Angelus, Pope Benedict spoke about how Christians are called on to face daily trials — including natural catastrophes — with the confidence of faith.

History follows its course, which includes human drama and suffering, but it still embodies a "design of salvation" introduced by Christ's life, death and resurrection, he said.

Christians therefore should trust in God's love as they cope with difficulties and apprehensions, he said.

"We don't fear the future, even when it appears ominous, because the God of Jesus Christ, who took up history to open it up to its transcendent fulfillment, is its alpha and omega, the beginning and the end," he said.

He said Christ guarantees that the entire meaning of the universe is contained in "every small but genuine act of love."

Contributing to this story was Anto Akkara in New Delhi.



CNS PHOTO BY RAFIUR RAHMAN, REUTERS

Niru Begum says her 80-year-old mother was killed when their house collapsed in Bakergani, Bangladesh. A Nov. 15 cyclone killed at least 3,000 people in the country's coastal area.

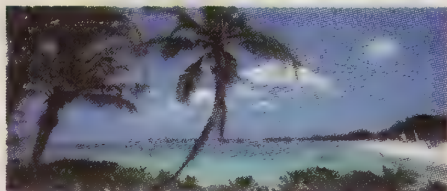
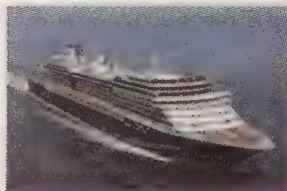
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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

## Perspectives

Getting into the spirit of  
Advent; the absent voice of  
leadership; fighting AIDS

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VOLUME 17 No 6

## The Lady of Lourdes

French bishop says  
people today can identify  
with St. Bernadette

BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — People today can identify with the weaknesses of St. Bernadette Soubirous and the message of her Marian apparitions, said a French bishop whose diocese includes Lourdes.

Everyone has limitations and flaws, Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes said Nov. 27.

The eldest of nine children, St. Bernadette was illiterate and her family was so poor that they lived in a former prison, he said.

But St. Bernadette had a "kind of wisdom" and was

See LOURDES, page 12

## Pro-life praise

Ethical, scientific  
breakthroughs seen in  
new stem-cell studies

BY NANCY FRAZIER  
O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Scientists, ethicists and church leaders hailed as a breakthrough two studies showing that human skin cells can be reprogrammed to work as effectively as embryonic stem cells, thus negating the need to destroy embryos in the name of science.

See STEM CELLS, page 7

## Chosen to be 'advisers and collaborators'



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

A Swiss Guard stands at attention as a cardinal arrives for a special Mass with the new cardinals at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 25. Pope Benedict XVI named 23 new cardinals from 14 countries during his second consistory.

Pope names 23  
cardinals from  
14 countries

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a liturgy that emphasized the church's cultural diversity and its unity of mission, Pope Benedict XVI named 23 new cardinals from 14 countries.

The group included U.S. Cardinal John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

The pope, presiding over his second consistory, told the new cardinals he had chosen them to be the "closest advisers and collaborators" of his ministry in Rome, the church's traditional center.

At the same time, he said, the cardinals' geographical variety reflects Catholicism's

See CARDINALS, page 8

## Seeking the 'Soul of the City'

Many faiths gather for annual ecumenical  
Thanksgiving service

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — A few days before families and friends gathered on Thanksgiving, strangers of varying faiths came together in celebration.

The 32nd annual interfaith Thanksgiving service was held at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Nov. 20.

The ecumenical gathering brought together clergy, spiritual leaders and members of Charlotte-area faith communities, including Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Protestants.

The event, which featured speakers, singers and dancers

See FAITH, page 5



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Rev. Melissa Hanlin of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte shares a story of faith with children during the interfaith Thanksgiving service at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Nov. 20. Also pictured are Father Frank O'Rourke (left), pastor of St. Gabriel Church, and other spiritual leaders from Charlotte faith communities.

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Tim Conway's ups, downs

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## A MOST CARING 'G-DOG'



CNS PHOTO BY ELLIE HIDALGO/THE TIDINGS

Jesuit Father Greg Boyle (center) is assisted by youths from Homeboy Industries as he breaks ground for the organization's new headquarters in Los Angeles in early March 2006. Father Boyle, known to former gang members in East Los Angeles as "G-Dog," was among the 11 people honored as the most caring people in America for 2007.

## Jesuit who works with gang members named one of most caring Americans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A priest known to former gang members in East Los Angeles as "G-Dog" was among five adults and six young people honored by the Washington-based Caring Institute as the most caring people in America for 2007.

Jesuit Father Gregory Boyle, who founded Homeboy Industries in 1988 to provide "hope, not jail" for former gang members who want to turn their lives around, received one of the 2007 National Caring Awards at a Nov. 16 ceremony in Washington.

As chairman of the institute's board of trustees, former U.S. Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas described the 2007 winners as "wonderful role models and the very personification of caring."

Father Boyle's programs help an estimated 1,000 young people from nearly 600 different gangs each month. Beginning with a jobs program and a bakery, Homeboy Industries now includes a cafe as well as businesses that offer silk-screening and home maintenance services and sell merchandise with the Homeboy logo.

Other adult recipients of the 2007 Caring Awards were:

— Constantin Asavaoie, director of Prison Fellowship Romania, who spent 10 years in prison because of his Christian faith;

— Dominic Avellani, founder of the East Boston Adult Education Center, which has assisted more than 40,000 immigrants, refugees and high school dropouts;

— Rose Espinoza of La Habra, Calif., who started a tutoring program for

low-income children that now serves 200 children at four branches;

— Karin Walser, founder and executive director of Horton's Kids, a nonprofit tutoring and mentoring program in the southeast section of Washington.

Youth winners of the Caring Awards were:

— Jourdan Urbach, a 15-year-old violin virtuoso from Roslyn Heights, N.Y., who has raised more than \$1.3 million for pediatric units and medical charities.

— Mollie and Jackie Singer, 18-year-old twins from Las Vegas who started Diabetic Angels to educate children about diabetes and teach them how to watch out for their diabetic friends.

— Davin Singleton, 18, of Pasadena, Md., who created a workshop called "Dreamers: How to Become Your Dream" to empower dyslexics like himself and other children.

— Lauren Beeder of Newbury Park, Calif., a 16-year-old volunteer at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles who founded kidsCANCERvive to raise funds for research and provide online support to children with cancer and their families.

— Emily Wemhoff, 18, of Creston, Neb., founder of Project SAFE, or Save a Friend Everyday, whose fire safety efforts have saved countless lives in Nebraska.

The Caring Institute was founded in 1985 by Val Halamandaris after he met with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She suggested he confront the poverty of the spirit in the developed world by identifying extraordinarily gifted people and holding them up as role models.

## Catholic officials say Middle East peace possible, but U.S. must lead

BALTIMORE (CNS) — As key leaders from Israel, the Palestinian territories, Saudi Arabia, Syria and other nations gathered in Annapolis for a Nov. 26-28 Middle East peace conference and related meetings, local Catholic leaders said they were hopeful the meetings would trigger further discussions for making a lasting peace in the Holy Land.

Peace is attainable, they said, but it will take assertive leadership from the United States to make it a reality.

"I'm guardedly optimistic in the sense that I'm always happy when there's some kind of negotiation going on in the Middle East," said Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden, urban vicar for the archdiocese.

Bishop Madden previously served as director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine office in Jerusalem. He said the lack of strong leadership from the United States in recent years has been a contributing reason the peace process has stalled. He was hopeful the U.S.-led

Annapolis conference would change that.

The conference and related meetings included participants from 50 organizations and countries, including Israel, the Palestinian territories and several Arab states.

Bishop Madden said there is general consensus about what steps are needed to achieve peace. Israelis would like greater control of the terrorists who pose a threat to security, he said, while Palestinians are looking for a cessation of Israeli settlement-building, the return of land and freer travel.

Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the Annapolis conference would help Palestinians and Israelis reach a "just and definitive solution."

The Vatican also sent a delegation to the conference headed by Msgr. Pietro Parolin, undersecretary for the foreign affairs section of the Vatican Secretariat of State. He was accompanied by Msgr. Franco Coppola, another foreign affairs specialist.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

beginning of the Advent season, Dec. 2 at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the banquet room following the Mass. If you have questions, call Pat at (704) 541-8362.

CHARLOTTE — The next *Blood Give-In Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will be Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., in the family room of the Parish Center. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as driver's license or Red Cross blood donor card. Sign-up tables will be in the narthex Dec. 1-2. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be taken as time permits. If you have questions, call Pat at (704) 541-8362.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with "Lunchtime Spirituality" at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The topic for Dec. 13 will be Hans Urs von Balthasar's "Unless You Become Like This Child." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit [www.catholicscripturestudy.com](http://www.catholicscripturestudy.com) for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — SPRED (Special Religious Development) is a faith formation program at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., for those of all ages with developmental disabilities. We invite all members of your parish, those with disabilities and those without, to share our common bond as we celebrate a *SPRED Advent Family Mass* marking the

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican prepares new series of conferences on social development

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Forty years after Pope Paul VI's groundbreaking encyclical on human development, "Populorum Progressio," the Vatican is preparing to launch a new series of conferences and publications on poverty, corruption, disarmament, prisons and the ethics of taxation.

The new proposals were discussed at the Nov. 20-21 plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, which examined the impact of the 1967 encyclical and the new challenges that have emerged since its publication.

In a statement, the council announced proposals for at least four major international conferences on themes related to justice and world peace. It said the topics will include "politics, democracy and values"; disarmament; Catholic social doctrine and the laity; and "ethics and taxation."

Future documents will address the topics of poverty and globalization; penal

justice and the re-education of convicts; and the fight against corruption, it said.

During the encounter, participants underlined that the moral dimension of development was more important than ever in an increasingly globalized economy.

The plenary assembly was followed by a Rome conference of Catholic organizations that work on justice and peace issues. Addressing participants, Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the pontifical council, said globalization holds real opportunities, as long as its goals are based on the sharing of resources and the common good, he said.

Mati Mulumba, an economist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, said multilateral cooperation over the last 40 years has brought progress in health care, education and areas of economic development. But he said the world has not eradicated the imbalances between rich and poor, which was one of the appeals made in Pope Paul's encyclical.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — The *Respect for Life* group meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Primacy of Christ (Bonaventure)*" Dec. 9, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Submissions deadlines for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## U.N. nuncio urges religions to be 'loud and clear' against violence

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Religious leaders must speak out "loud and clear" against those who try to use sacred texts such as the Quran or the Bible to justify violence or human rights violations, the Vatican's nuncio to the United Nations said in a lecture at the University of Notre Dame.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore spoke Nov. 15 on "Catholicism and Islam: Points of Convergence and Divergence, Encounter and Cooperation."

He said the spread of terrorism has "triggered a renewed interest in Christian-Islamic dialogue."

"It's not enough for any religion to say: We have nothing to do with extremists, with fundamentalists; or, extremists do not speak for our respective religions," Archbishop Migliore said.

"Indeed extremists and fundamentalists do make reference to the same sacred texts; they even dare to portray themselves as the faithful interpreters and keepers of those sacred texts," he said.

"Rather, we have to engage those who try to justify their unjustifiable acts

of violence and multiform violations of human rights using those same texts and proclaim it loud and clear that those texts do not lend themselves to a reading which leads to violence," he added.

The history of relations between Christians and Muslims has been "marked by long periods of incomprehension, of rivalry and at times also very violent oppression, interspersed with intervals — although truly limited in time and space — of peaceful coexistence and of mutual cooperation at all levels," he said.

But Archbishop Migliore cited three important "points of convergence" between Christians and Muslims: "We are all children of Abraham; both are monotheists and belong to a religion gifted with a sacred book."

"The similarities that are found" in the Bible and the Quran "offer starting points and basis to achieve together personal holiness and the common good of society," he said.

Archbishop Migliore suggested that the theme of "love of God and neighbor" could be the source of fruitful dialogue between the two religions.

## A moment of peace



CNS PHOTO BY MAHMOUD RAOUF MAHMOUD, REUTERS

A U.S. soldier rests near a statue of Mary outside a church in the Dora district of Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 21.

of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr., Charlotte, N.C., 28206, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 344-0934.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Blanketeers* of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a non-profit organization. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit www.projectlinus.org.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will have a *Christmas Tea* at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Our *Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 5 — 1:30 p.m.  
Diocesan Building Commission meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Dec. 6 — 10 a.m.  
Diocesan Foundation Board meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 7 — 6 p.m.  
Blessing of new altar  
St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon

Dec. 9 — 9:30 a.m.  
Installation of Father John Denny as pastor  
St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Maggie Valley

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



## Guiding the roles of pastors and pastoral councils



PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Bishop Peter J. Jugis signs the decree of promulgation for the revised guidelines for pastoral councils in the Diocese of Charlotte Nov. 26.

## Bishop Jugis promulgates revised guidelines

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis has approved new guidelines for parish pastoral councils in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The bishop signed the decree of promulgation, dated Nov. 1, the date the new guidelines went into effect.

Replacing those issued in 1991, the revised guidelines reflect the changing role of pastoral councils in the 21st century.

By virtue of their baptisms and full initiation into the Catholic Church, the laity "share responsibility" with priests "for the pastoral mission of the local church," said Bishop Jugis in the decree of promulgation.

"Members of the pastoral council collaborate with the pastor in the building up of the church and its sanctification," wrote Bishop Jugis.



PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Msgr. James Gaston and Sister Brenda Herman lead a training session on new pastoral council guidelines at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Nov. 17.

Bishop Jugis wrote that, according to the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity of the Second Vatican Council, the action of pastoral councils "within the Church communities is so necessary that without it the apostolate of pastors will frequently be unable to obtain its full effect."

"The primary work of any pastoral council should be the building of a single community of faith," said George Cobb, director of planning and research for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The guidelines reflect a new tone of decision-making that returns pastoral councils to their original intent — from managing interior church matters to consulting and advising the pastor on matters relating to the parish and the larger community in which its members are called by Christ to serve," said Cobb, who provides pastoral council training in the diocese.

The guidelines will bring uniformity to the use of pastoral councils by standardizing their roles and relationships with other parish organizations, such as providing clarification on the role of parish commissions and on the parish staff's relationship with lay councils and commissions.

Training sessions on the guidelines were offered for priests, deacons and lay pastoral council members at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Nov. 15 and 17.

The sessions were facilitated by Msgr. James Gaston, a priest of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., and Sister Brenda Herman, a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, both of whom have extensive, firsthand experience working with pastoral councils.

The revised guidelines are available in English on the diocesan Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html). A Spanish-language version will be available soon.

## Sending the season overseas

*Faith formation classes 'adopt' soldiers for Christmas*

BY LAURA RICE  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Jackie Cristiano is a woman who thinks ahead, and with good reasons.

She's senior vice president at a bank, a cycling instructor at the YMCA and a religious education teacher at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

But it's her role as mother to four children, specifically to her son John, that's put her planning skills to work.

Sgt. John Cristiano of Task Force Gladius of the 82nd Airborne out of Fort Bragg is currently serving his fourth year in the U.S. Army and finishing up his first year in Afghanistan.

Knowing her son wouldn't be returning home until March 2008 and wanting to make Christmas a bit brighter for him and his fellow soldiers, Cristiano turned to the young faith formation students at St. Gabriel Church for help.

The response from the 700 children in the 44 classes from kindergarten through eighth grade was overwhelming.

The classes "adopted" the 34 soldiers in the unit, providing each one with gifts, necessities and some much-needed holiday cheer.

Beginning in late October, the parish's 90 catechists worked with students and their families to quickly provide items for the classes' designated soldiers, in order to mail them to reach the soldiers by Christmas.

The response was immediate, with many parents wanting to give more. The

parish faith formation office was soon filled with donated items, including T-shirts, DVDs, CDs and books.

"When I first asked if we could involve the other classes in this, I never expected such a response. It's all going to be so appreciated," said Cristiano.

The catechists began incorporating into their lessons themes connected to the collection for the soldiers — such as Christian charity, the Corporal Works of Mercy, the Good Samaritan and the generosity of the Holy Spirit.

Students wrote cards and letters to their adopted soldiers; they decorated handmade ornaments and took class photographs to send in the packages.

Cristiano initially expected to be sending small care packages, but the families filled multiple shopping bags for each soldier. When the magnitude of the shipping costs became apparent, another religious education teacher and Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor, donated money to help defray the costs.

The packages arrived in Afghanistan the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 23. Sgt. Cristiano called his mother soon after to say the soldiers were happy and grateful to receive so many items. The unit took photographs of the gifts being opened, which will be shared with the students.

Meanwhile, Jackie Cristiano continues looking ahead — to sending future care packages and to welcoming her son home again.

*Rice is a religious education teacher at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.*



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are students from a second-grade faith formation class at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, with a note for their "adopted" U.S. Army soldier, Josh, who is currently serving in Afghanistan.



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# Many faiths gather for annual ecumenical service

FAITH, from page 1

from various faiths, was sponsored by Mecklenburg Ministries, a nonprofit, interfaith organization.

"This service gives Charlotte the wonderful opportunity to worship with people of different religions," said Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel in Charlotte.

"It helps us appreciate the many things we share in common that unite us. When houses of faith connect in this positive worship experience, they are not afraid to work together for our city," said Rabbi Ezring, one of the event's organizers.

Rev. Greg Moss, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, gave the keynote speech, "The Soul of the City."

"Do we want Charlotte to be a world-class city, or a world-class community?" he asked the attendees.

To achieve "world-class community" status, Rev. Moss said residents of all faiths must strive to overcome the injustices plaguing their communities.

"We need to work to develop the will

to deal with the issues of homelessness, affordable housing and living wages," said Rev. Moss in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

In separate interviews, several of the participating spiritual leaders discussed ways to follow through on Rev. Moss' challenge of making Charlotte a "world-class community."

"We all need to pay attention to social issues," said Rabbi Micah Streiffer, assistant rabbi at Temple Beth El in Charlotte.

"People are created in God's image and are deserving of those basic necessities," he said. "We can make a difference if we pay attention to that."

"We need to stop focusing on our differences and focus on what we have in common," said Rabbi Ezring.

The rabbi spoke of the recent All Clergy Build, in which spiritual leaders and members from 10 faiths built a Habitat for Humanity house in Charlotte.

"Now a family has something they did not have before because God's leaders came together and made a difference," he said.

The house was dedicated and presented to the family Nov. 18.

For Omar Rokayak, president of the Muslim Student Association at the



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The Interfaith Children's Choir performs during the ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Nov. 20.

University of North Carolina, the All Clergy Build was his first chance to interact with many clergy and spiritual leaders of other faiths.

"We were gathered to do something good for the community, and it opened a door for exchange in a relaxed atmosphere," said Rokayak.

He said events such as the interfaith Thanksgiving service also help to promote unity among the people.


"Education is key. When we learn

about each other, we avoid judgments based on stereotypes," said Rokayak.

People of all faiths must be "more generous and become bridge builders," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church.

"Then we can be more responsive to the plight of people who are in need," he said.




Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



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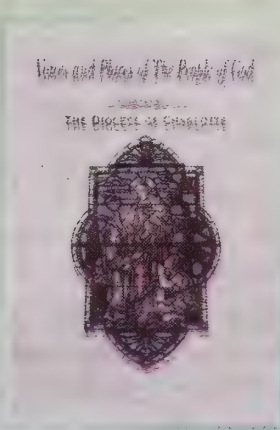
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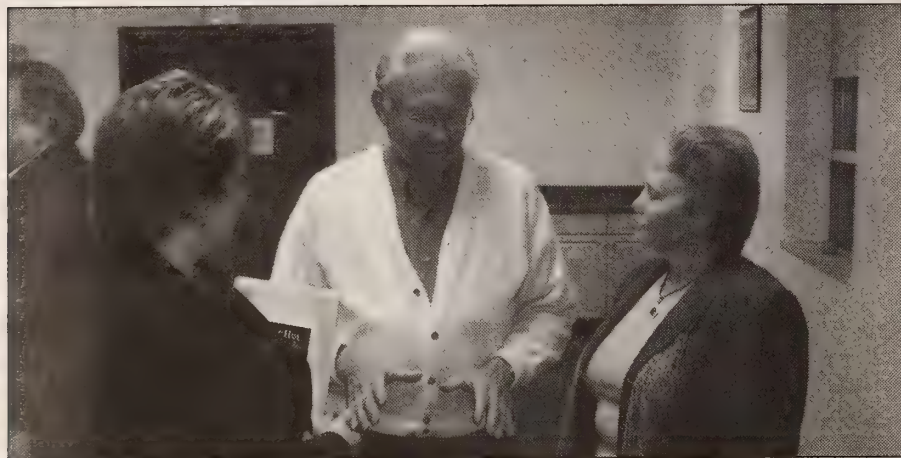
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## Exploring ways to strengthen families



COURTESY PHOTO

Annette Shumate (left) of Catholic Community Services in the Diocese of Charleston-Wheeling speaks with Edwin Manchester, OEO advisory board member, and Netta McFaddin, OEO employee, during a Catholic Charities visit in November.

## Office of Economic Opportunity welcomes Catholic Charities visitors

**MURPHY** — Members of several Catholic Charities agencies recently came to the Diocese of Charlotte.

The group visited Catholic Social Service's Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy Nov. 6-8, part of a tour highlighting the 2007 recipients of the Catholic Charities USA Family Strengthening Awards — of which the OEO was one of four national recipients.

Established in 1999 by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, the OEO serves the far-western North Carolina counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

As a recipient of a Family Strengthening Award, the OEO received a \$25,000 grant to be used for its programs, which help strengthen families and promote financial literacy.

The visiting group included members of seven Catholic Charities agencies throughout the United States and Catholic Charities USA headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

They traveled the four counties served by the OEO, learned about its programs, met representatives of partnering organizations and listened to an ecumenical panel of clergy speak about the OEO's interfaith partnerships.

One of the OEO's programs is Far West Families First, which matches struggling families with ecumenical faith teams who provide support and encouragement to help the families reach

financial goals.

The visiting Catholic Charities personnel indicated a desire to introduce faith team partnerships and ecumenical collaborations into their agencies and programs.

Jean Beil, Catholic Charities USA senior vice president for programs, complimented Claudie Burchfield, diocesan OEO program director, and OEO staff members Netta McFaddin and Mary Pat Dailey for what they are "able to accomplish by developing such a supportive network."

The tour included a visit to the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, Mass celebrated by Father Shawn O'Neal at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee and a dinner celebration at the OEO's annual grants and awards ceremony.

Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, thanked the attendees from the western North Carolina communities for their contributions to the OEO's various collaborative projects.

She also expressed her appreciation to the Catholic Charities visitors for coming to the Diocese of Charlotte to hear about the unique work of the OEO's programs.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the OEO, visit [www.cssnc.org/oao.html](http://www.cssnc.org/oao.html).

## Catholic Charities USA officials urge government to do more for poor

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — Just last year, Catholic Charities agencies across the country provided services for one out of every 10 people living in poverty.

Although the agencies are proud of the work they do, they would like to see that number of people in need decrease. But that is not going to happen, according to Catholic Charities officials, until the federal government steps up its efforts to help the country's poor.

"The federal government must do its part" because "we can't continue to provide at this level," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA during a Nov. 15 press conference in Washington where a report titled "Poverty in America: Beyond the Numbers" was released.

What the report shows about services provided to the poor is "impressive, but alarming," said Father Snyder.

He described the current state of poverty in the United States as both "unacceptable" and a "moral crisis."

The report, based on a 2006 survey of local agencies, provides a state-by-state look at the types of services local Catholic Charities agencies provide.

There are 173 main agencies, which include nearly 1,735 branches and affiliates. Charities funding comes from the Catholic Church, program service fees, government contracts and the support of corporations, foundations and individuals.

According to the report, the agencies are serving a growing number of people below the poverty line, including 4.1 million people last year. In 2006 Catholic Charities agencies served a total of 7.9 million clients.

In 2006, local Catholic Charities agencies saw a 12 percent increase in the need for food service programs, and between 2002 and 2006 the number of clients receiving food services — through soup kitchens, food banks and pantries or with home-delivered meals — increased by 2.7 million, or nearly 60 percent.

Janet Valente Pape, chairwoman of the Catholic Charities USA board said the report "shines a spotlight" on the work of Catholic Charities.

She also said it is getting "harder and harder to meet escalating needs."

Other key findings of the survey show that more than 45 percent of Catholic Charities' clients were either under 18 or over 65.

The agencies' community service

programs including education and enrichment, social support, health-related services and neighborhood activism — reached more than 3.6 million people last year, a 7 percent increase from the previous year.

Also last year, nearly 1.1 million people received counseling, mental health services and immigration services. In the past five years, requests for temporary shelters have increased 24 percent.

Last year, Catholic Charities agencies managed more than 176 temporary shelters and were unable to serve more than 31,000 people because all available beds were full.

"Thank God for Catholic Charities," said U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., at the press conference.

McGovern, a co-chair of the Congressional Hunger Caucus, said the increase in poverty in this country makes the need for Catholic Charities' services all the more acute. But he also stressed that the work of Catholic Charities "does not let the government off the hook."

"The government is not doing enough to meet the needs of its people," he said.

But he also said there were signs of hope and that lobbying efforts by groups such as Catholic Charities "are starting to resonate."

"You're shaming us to talk about issues," he said, adding that the organization's new report is a "great road map" showing what needs to be done.

Rev. David Beckmann, head of the Christian citizens' anti-hunger lobby Bread for the World, likewise noted signs of hope, saying, "We're on the cusp of a groundswell of concern for hunger."

But concern alone, by U.S. citizens, is not enough, he said. It has to make its way to government leaders.

"The government has to do its part," he said, and "has to be part of the solution."

Earlier this year, Catholic Charities USA launched a campaign with the goal to cut poverty in America in half by 2020. That would mean that the 37 million Americans now living below the poverty line, who form 12.6 percent of the country's population, would have to drop to about 6 percent within 13 years.

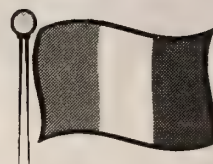
Catholic Charities USA and its branches and affiliates plan to attack the structural roots of poverty by advocating in Washington and in state capitals.



**Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of December:**

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Rev. Thomas McAvoy	1978
Rev. Joseph McCarthy	2001
Rev. Francis Scheurich	1975
Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Smith	1983
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# Ethical, scientific breakthroughs seen in new stem-cell studies

STEM CELLS, from page 1

Separate studies from teams led by Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University in Japan and Junying Yu and James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison were published online Nov. 20 by the journals *Cell* and *Science*, respectively.

"The methods outlined in these papers fully conform to what we have hoped to see for some time," said a statement from the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

"Such strategies should continue to be pursued and strongly promoted, as they should help to steer the entire field of stem-cell research in a more explicitly ethical direction by circumventing the moral quagmire associated with destroying human embryos," it added.

By adding four genes to the skin cells, the scientists were able to create stem cells that genetically match the donor and have the ability to become any of the 220 types of cells in the human body.

"The induced cells do all the things embryonic stem cells do," Thomson, who isolated the first embryonic stem cells in 1998, said in a university news release.

"It's going to completely change the field," he said.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, welcomed the news, expressing gratitude "for scientists who took up the challenge of finding morally acceptable ways to pursue stem-cell research, and for government leaders who have encouraged and funded such avenues."

The new technology "avoids the many ethical land mines associated with embryonic stem-cell research: It does not clone or destroy human embryos, does not harm or exploit women for their eggs, and does not blur the line between human beings and other species through desperate efforts to make human embryos using animal eggs," he added.

The White House also praised the breakthrough Nov. 20, saying that President George W. Bush's June 2007

"The methods outlined in these papers fully conform to what we have hoped to see for some time."

— National Catholic Bioethics Center

executive order expanding stem-cell research using "ethically responsible techniques" was "intended to accelerate precisely the kind of research being reported today."

"The president believes medical problems can be solved without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life," said press secretary Dana Perino.

"We will continue to encourage scientists to expand the frontiers of stem-cell research and continue to advance the understanding of human biology in an ethically responsible way," she said.

The findings drew similar reaction from Catholic and pro-life leaders abroad.

Australian Archbishop Philip Wilson of Adelaide, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, said, "While it is still early days for this research, it is a very promising discovery which will help scientists to fight serious diseases without resorting to the deliberate destruction of human embryos to obtain stem cells."

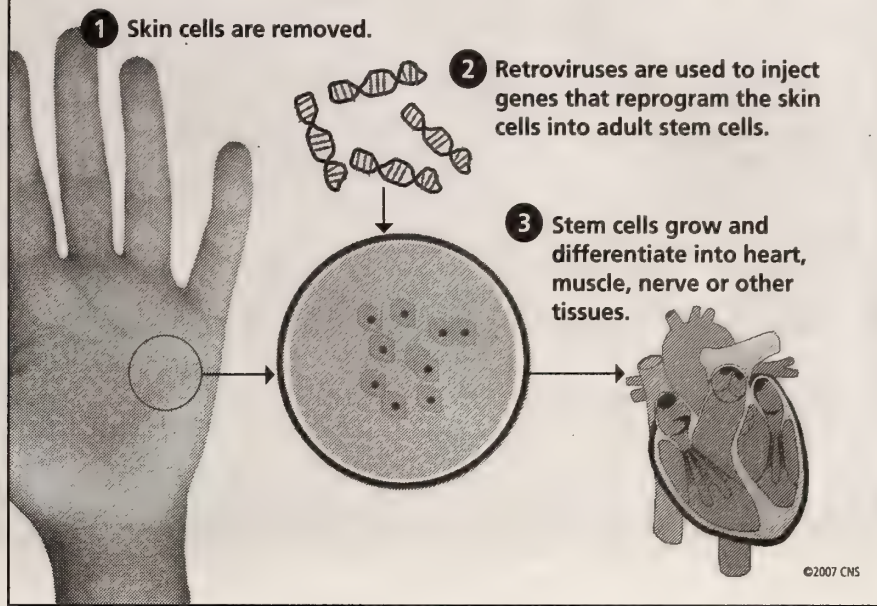
He expressed regret that the Australian Parliament had acted to permit embryonic stem-cell research when more effective and more ethical means were just around the corner.

In Great Britain, the head of the pro-life group Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said the new stem-cell studies "show that one can be both pro-life and pro-science."

"Experimenting with embryos, on the other hand, is both bad ethics and bad science," said Anthony Ozimic. "Science advances when it respects human life, but stalls or even goes backwards when it treats human beings as mere research material."

## Creating Stem Cells

Researchers have discovered a new way to develop stem cells that bypasses the use of human embryos.



Ian Wilmut, the Scottish scientist who created Dolly the cloned sheep in 1996, told the *London Telegraph* that he had decided in light of the new findings to abandon his efforts to clone human embryos and would instead concentrate on research involving the new reprogramming techniques.

Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow, Scotland, chairman of the United Kingdom and Ireland Joint Bishops' Bioethics Committee, welcomed Wilmut's announcement, saying: "The Catholic Church has constantly supported the work of scientists who use adult stem cells, research which has produced much more promising results and avoids the ethical dilemma involved in creating and destroying human life."

The National Catholic Bioethics Center said Wilmut's change of heart "flowed largely from practical considerations" but that the scientist also had acknowledged that the new approach was "easier to accept socially."

"Persistence in seeking creative scientific breakthroughs and actively pursuing alternative approaches can help resolve serious ethical problems

and allow us to maintain the ethical integrity of science while achieving important scientific and medical ends," the statement said.

However, Thomson and the International Society for Stem-Cell Research called on scientists to continue research involving the destruction of human embryos.

More study is needed to ensure that the newly made cells "do not differ from embryonic stem cells in a clinically significant or unexpected way, so it is hardly time to discontinue embryonic stem-cell research," Thomson said.

"These findings do not obviate the need for research using human embryonic stem cells," said the society in a Nov. 20 statement.

"Rather, the different avenues of human stem-cell research should be pursued side by side providing complementary information," it said.

In light of that stand by some scientists, Mailee Smith, staff counsel for the Chicago-based Americans United for Life, said: "The need for states to pass legislation that bans all forms of human cloning remains."

## Vatican official says stem-cell studies show science can be ethical

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent studies showing that human skin cells can be reprogrammed to function as stem cells demonstrate that scientific progress can be achieved without violating basic ethical norms, said Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

"If this technique is validated, it would be a historic discovery," the bishop told Vatican Radio in late November.

The success of the approach, which the Japanese and U.S. researchers followed for scientific and not primarily for ethical reasons, demonstrates that progress does not have to violate ethical norms, he said.

And, he said, the results demonstrate that "it is not true that the church is against research, only that it is against bad research, research which damages human beings, in this case the human embryo."

He said it is a shame that so many human embryos have been destroyed and so many millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on embryonic stem-cell research when better results have been obtained without destroying embryos.

"It is true" that researchers do not know for sure what will work and what will not when they begin a project, the bishop said, "but there were already indications that results could be obtained using adult stem cells, while from embryonic stem cells there have been no results."

"I do not know if those who have invested money and passed laws precisely to allow this (embryonic stem-cell research) will be able to recognize their error and turn back, but at least the scientists who want to achieve results will go looking where they have been proven to be found," Bishop Sgreccia said.



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Above: Pope Benedict XVI concelebrates Mass with the new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 25. Below: Pope Benedict XVI gathers with the College of Cardinals in the synod hall at the Vatican Nov. 23. The meeting was attended by 120 cardinals and the 23 churchmen the pope inducted into the college the following day.



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

## Pope names 23 cardinals from 14 countries

CARDINALS, from page 1

global expansion and the fact that today the church "speaks every language of the world."

International groups of pilgrims who packed St. Peter's Basilica for the Nov. 24 consistory added emphasis to the pope's words, applauding, cheering and even waving national flags when the new cardinals' names were announced.

The pope made a special appeal for peace in Iraq and said his naming of Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Dely of Baghdad, the Chaldean patriarch, was a sign of his closeness to the country's Christian population.

"They are experiencing in their own flesh the dramatic consequences of an enduring conflict and now live in a fragile and delicate political situation," the pope said.

"Together we want to reaffirm the solidarity of the entire church with the Christians of that beloved land and ask prayers for the beginning of the hoped-for reconciliation for all the peoples involved," he said.

### New cardinals

During the consistory, each cardinal knelt as the pope placed on his head a red three-cornered hat, called a biretta.

The pope told them the color was not only a sign of the cardinal's dignity, but also a visible reminder of their readiness to act with courage "even to the point of shedding your blood" in order to help spread the Christian faith.

Cardinal Dely, 80, received the biggest applause when he approached the altar to receive his red hat; the pope gave him the classic round hat of a Chaldean patriarch instead of a biretta.

Pope Benedict, wearing a gold cape and seated on a gilded throne, smiled as he watched the cardinals adjust their hats and receive the congratulations of the veteran cardinals, who filled the front of the basilica.

Cardinal Foley, a 72-year-old native of Philadelphia, spent many years as a Catholic journalist before being named to head the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in 1984.

In June he was made head of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, a chivalric organization that responds to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

Meeting reporters afterward, Cardinal Foley said he appreciated the great number of warm and positive articles about him in recent days.

"It's nice to be canonized without the inconvenience of dying," he quipped.

Cardinal DiNardo, 58, was the second-youngest of the new cardinals. He is the first cardinal from a Texas diocese, and his nomination was considered a sign of Pope Benedict's attention to the growth of the Catholic Church in the U.S. Southwest.

"It's an honor, a responsibility and pretty humbling for this kid from

Pittsburgh," Cardinal DiNardo said of his elevation to the rank of cardinal.

Besides the United States and Iraq, other new cardinals came from Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Northern Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Poland, Senegal and Spain.

### Cardinal duties

Of the 23 new cardinals, 18 were under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave. Those over 80 included Franciscan Cardinal Umberto Betti, 85, who processed into the basilica in a wheelchair; when he was given his red hat by the pope, whom he has known for more than 40 years, he appeared to be overwhelmed with emotion.

The consistory left the College of Cardinals with 201 members, a new record. Of those, 120 are under age 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave.

In his sermon, the pope underlined that being a cardinal was not about power and success, but a new form of service.

"True Christian greatness, in fact, lies not in dominating but in serving," he said.

This is the ideal that should guide the cardinals in their new role, he said.

Each of the new cardinals was assigned a church in Rome as a symbol that he was becoming a member of the clergy of Rome and was more closely bound to the bishop of Rome, the pope.

Cardinal Foley was given the Church of St. Sebastian on the Palatine Hill. Cardinal DiNardo received the Church of St. Eusebius, one of the city's oldest churches, on the Esquiline Hill.

The consistory liturgy had been planned for St. Peter's Square, but was moved inside the basilica when bad weather was forecast. In the end, it did not rain during the consistory. The pope walked out to the steps of the basilica afterward and extemporized a talk to those who waited outside.

Among those in the square was a large contingent from Senegal who came to cheer Cardinal Theodore-Adrien Sarr of Dakar. They wore T-shirts with the cardinal's name and picture on the front and the phrase, "Where can we go, Lord?" written on the back in French.

Alphonse Mendy, a native of Dakar, said the nomination was especially important for the African country because it put the spotlight on the minority Catholic population in a country that is more than 90 percent Muslim.

After the consistory, the cardinals scattered to various receptions throughout the day, including a big open house held in the late afternoon in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

The following day, the pope celebrated Mass with the new cardinals and gave each one a gold ring to symbolize his special bond of communion with Rome.

The day before, the pope presided over a meeting with cardinals and cardinals-designate for discussions on the church's ecumenical dialogues.

Contributing to this story were Cindy Wooden and Carol Glatz.

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CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

New Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad, Iraq, leaves the consistory Nov. 24 at the Vatican. The Chaldean patriarch said Pope Benedict XVI hoped that naming him a cardinal might promote dialogue and reconciliation between Christians and Muslims in Iraq.

## Elevation of Chaldean patriarch highlights plight of Iraqi Christians

### *Iraqi delegation attend consistory at Vatican*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI placed a red hat on Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad during a Nov. 24 consistory in St. Peter's Basilica, he was honoring not just the patriarch of the Chaldean church, but was elevating the plight of Iraqi Christians to the world's attention.

The pope "told me 'I hope this gesture will be a sign of reconciliation not only among the people, but especially among Sunnis, Shiites and Christians, because Iraq is a country dear to me,'" the patriarch told reporters Nov. 23 after a meeting of cardinals and cardinals-designate with the pope.

During the Nov. 24 consistory, Pope Benedict said in his homily that elevating the Chaldean leader was a way of "concretely expressing my spiritual closeness and my affection" for Iraq's Christian minorities.

"They are experiencing in their own flesh the dramatic consequences of an enduring conflict and now live in a fragile and delicate political situation," the pope said.

Among the thousands of pilgrims crammed inside the basilica were hundreds of Chaldean Catholics from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, the United States and Europe. Pilgrims who did not get inside the standing-room-only ceremony in the basilica watched in St. Peter's Square.

One large group waved two immense Iraqi flags, devoid of Arabic script, cheering loudly when the pope announced their patriarch's name.

Chaldean Father Basel Yaldo, 37, was among those who came to Rome to see his patriarch elevated. Father Yaldo was kidnapped for three days in September 2006, just after Pope Benedict's controversial remarks about Islam in Regensburg, Germany, inflamed part of the Muslim world.

Death threats against the priest were so serious that he was transferred from Baghdad to a parish in Michigan.

Jerry Yono, a Chaldean businessman in Southfield, Mich., said Father Yaldo had been beaten so badly by his captors that he was unable to walk properly for a long time.

Speaking to CNS through a translator, Father Yaldo said Nov. 23 that he had not been kidnapped for money, but

that his abductors instead "had some conditions."

Yono said one of the conditions was to tell Cardinal Delly that all Christians were to leave Iraq.

Cardinal Delly said he would stay in Iraq and continue to lobby political and religious leaders to work together to create peace and improve security in the country. He said that now when he travels abroad as cardinal he "will try to convince everyone who left the country to return to Iraq and work to build Iraq together."

Cardinal Delly said Iraq's prime minister, president and parliament all sent delegations to the consistory. Political representatives included members of the Shiite-backed Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council — one of Iraq's largest and most powerful political parties — and emissaries of Iraq's regional Kurdish government.

He said Sunni and Shiite Muslims, Kurds, Christians and other religious and ethnic representatives were in attendance to pay witness to the Iraqi government's desire "that we are still in a united Iraq and that I will continue to serve (my country) with all my strength to the last drop of my blood."

The 20-member government delegation was headed by the minister of human rights, Wijdan Mikhail Salim, a Chaldean Catholic who said she hoped Cardinal Delly's elevation "will be for the good of all of Iraq."

She told CNS her government "does not want the Christians to leave"; they want all groups to live together harmoniously and are "trying to improve security for all people."

She said the government wanted to thank the pope for bringing the world's attention to Iraq through Cardinal Delly's elevation. She said the Catholic Church has always tried to remind people of Iraq's need for help, and she praised it because "it supports all Iraqi people, not just Christians."

Despite churches, mosques and religious leaders often being targets of bombings and kidnappings, Salim said the conflict in Iraq "is not a religious civil war."

She said criminals, terrorists and other groups were hiding behind religious symbols "for some political aims."

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Three childhood friends write book on their WWII experiences

BY MICHAEL VICK  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — Ken Burns' recent documentary, "The War," showcased the stories of average soldiers in new ways, revealing hidden stories behind the most explosive conflict of the 20th century.

One reason Burns cited for those stories remaining in the shadows for so long is the costly psychological trauma inflicted on young men in war.

In 2005, a trio of San Francisco natives and World War II veterans published their account of World War II, and raised a different reason why so many stories remained shrouded.

"We just didn't think people would be interested in what we had to say," said Ken Ross, co-author with childhood friends Normand Black and Carl Swendsen of the book "We Didn't Know We Were Heroes."

The men continue to be surprised by how many people have eagerly snapped up copies.

Ross, who compiled the book from audio recordings, said the three would often tell stories about the war to friends and family. Their loved ones' interest in hearing more and seeing the men actually put what they had on paper prompted them to tell their story.

Black now lives just down the road from Ross in Windsor, where both attend Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

"What we've found is every time we speak to someone, they mention their father or their uncle or grandfather," Black said. "They wish they'd asked them questions, but they're gone."

In the preface, Ross makes it clear the book is not meant to be a historically complete account or a discussion of military strategy. The stories are personal and tempered by the 60 years that separate the young men in the account from the retired veterans who wrote it.

"We don't want to deceive you readers into thinking that we are historians or apologists for our nation and civilian or military leadership," Ross writes. "We are just three average guys — of course, we think we're a cut above average."

In those stories, the three recount their journey from high school students to soldiers, starting Dec. 7, 1941.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WINDSOR TIMES

Catholics Kenneth Ross, Carl Swendsen and Normand Black write about "three ordinary guys, fresh out of high school, who sign up to do their part" in World War II in their book, "We Didn't Know We Were Heroes." They are pictured in an undated photo.

When they learned Japan had attacked America's Pacific fleet, Ross, his two friends and his fellow classmates immediately wanted to join the military.

Swendsen entered the Navy and ran supplies in the treacherous Pacific. Black also served in the Pacific in the Army. He saw combat in the Gilbert Islands, Saipan and Okinawa, and later served for in Japan after the Japanese surrender.

Ross served in the 101st Airborne Division as a demolition specialist, and saw combat in the European theater at the Battle of the Bulge.

In the book, the men recount both lighthearted moments and the darkness of war. The men dedicate the book to their wives — Black's Jackie, Ross' Lyn and Swendsen's Pat.

"The war never really got to me," Ross said. "It was nasty and horrible and horrendous, but I did it and forgot about it."

Swendsen, who still lives in San Francisco where he is a parishioner at St. Monica Church, writes of his experience on supply ships in the Pacific. The ships carried limited armaments and traveled without escort in waters crawling with Japanese submarines.

Each veteran ends his section of the book with moving statements on "How I Feel About War." Each embraces the importance of defending nation and family when under attack.

Each underscores, as did Burns' series, that war "is nasty business," in the words of Swendsen.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 9, 2007

### Dec. 9, Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
- 2) Romans 15:4-9  
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

### We must be open, willing to be filled with Holy Spirit

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My 25-year-old friend Penny used to tell me about her weekend social "adventures" with her friend Sara. Sara was a bit of a "wild child," Penny explained.

The two had very different backgrounds. Sara came from a broken home with little discipline or parental attention during her adolescent years. Penny's family was close-knit and, while not overbearingly devout, Christian values were at its core.

Penny herself had a strong sense of personal morality and self-confidence. It was obvious that Sara admired Penny and subtly tried to emulate her.

Sara began having relational problems with her boyfriend. She told Penny that he was controlling and didn't treat her with respect.

She told him she'd started going to church and wanted him to go too. He didn't buy it. Still Sara continued the relationship with him — and quit going to church herself.

Penny didn't counsel Sara to go back to church. Instead, she suggested Sara not only end the bad relationship but start showing respect for herself by continuing her college education, slowing down her drinking and giving up other negative behaviors that contributed to a poor self-image.

But Sara wasn't willing to change or sever the attachment to her boyfriend.

Penny, meanwhile, was on a forward track and quickly tired of the shallow party scene and moved on.

Months later Penny heard from her old friend. Sara had decided she wanted to be a teacher and had begun college classes toward that goal.

She also broke up with the boyfriend, was working out regularly at the Y and had met some new and interesting friends.

"She seems so much happier — it was like talking to a different person," Penny told me. "Now she's ready for God."

Sara's experience illustrates the need for a two-step conversion such as John the Baptist offers in this week's Gospel of Advent. The first step is repentance — turning away from one's sinfulness.

Then will come the Holy Spirit, bringing a life imbued with Jesus Christ.

The way of Advent is preparation. First we cleanse ourselves of elements that keep God out of our lives. Once emptied, then we are available for the Lord to fill us with his Spirit.

#### Questions:

What are the sins or bad habits and attachments that currently crowd out Jesus from your life? What must you do to eliminate these elements so your life is open to Christ's coming in?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 2-8

**Sunday (First Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday (St. Francis Xavier)**, Isaiah 4:2-6, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (St. John of Damascus)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Nicholas)**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (St. Ambrose)**, Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 9-15

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; **Monday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (St. Damascus 1)**, Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Lucy)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (St. John of the Cross)**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday)**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9-13.

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# New Catholic Web site offers resources to connect faith, faily life

*Iraqi delegation attend consistory at Vatican*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — A new Catholic Web site, [www.ActiveParishioner.com](http://www.ActiveParishioner.com), is aiming to bridge the gap between the Catholic faith and everyday life by offering books for sale and other timely resources for free.

The site, which launched Nov. 5, was founded by Ana Kelly, who worked for nearly 10 years at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

"When I worked at the bishops' conference, I received many requests for good Catholic resources," Kelly said in a news release.

"I realized that there was no central location for Catholics to find the many wonderful resources that exist. [ActiveParishioner.com](http://www.ActiveParishioner.com) fills that need by serving as a one-stop shop for finding excellent Catholic resources," she said.

Books are grouped into relevant topics, such as decision-making, careers, caregiving, parenting, children's books, illness and disability, prayer, forgiveness, grief and mourning, God, miscarriage, interfaith relations and travel.

"The Web site focuses on key questions and challenges that people experience, whether losing a job, becoming a parent, struggling with illness, yearning to somehow connect with God, or wondering how science and God can coexist," Kelly said.

"The Web site then provides the resources to shed light on these issues from a faith perspective," she said.

Visitors to the site also can pray online, access daily Mass readings and meditations, and read the latest Catholic news. The site also contains listings of all U.S. bishops and dioceses, current church statistics, a list of bishops' conferences around the world and a calendar of national Catholic conferences and gatherings.

Kelly, who was born in Cuba but has lived most of her life in the U.S., holds an engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, a master of business administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and a master of divinity degree from the Washington Theological Union.

# Catholic comedy legend Tim Conway keeps 'em laughing

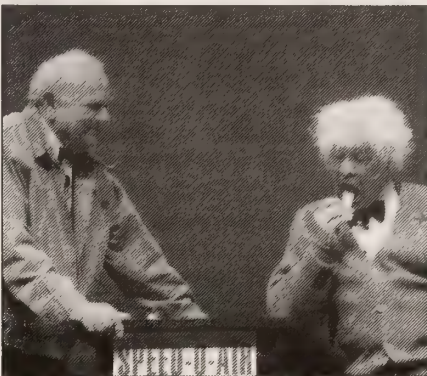
BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — People know Tim Conway best from his 11 seasons on TV's "The Carol Burnett Show," where he delighted viewers with outlandish sketch comedy and physical humor.

Others remember him from his four-year stint on the sitcom "McHale's Navy." But it wasn't always plums, plaudits and success for the Catholic comedian.

In 1967, a year after "McHale's Navy" went off the air, Conway lasted less than a half-season as TV's "Rango," playing an inept lawman.

"Rango" was probably the only unsuccessful show that Aaron Spelling (producer of such hits as "Charlie's Angels" and "Beverly Hills 90210") ever had," Conway said.



Harvey Korman and Tim Conway are pictured doing sketch comedy in an undated photo. Conway, who is Catholic, is known best for his 11 seasons on TV's "The Carol Burnett Show," where he delighted viewers with outlandish sketch comedy and physical humor.

Then came 1969's "Turn-On," a rapid-fire gag comedy show in the style of "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In."

"That is in the Guinness Book of Records," Conway said. "It was the shortest show ever on television."

While not a member of the cast, Conway, as the show's special guest star, was a bigger name than anyone else on the show the one night it aired.

"We had a premiere party the night it was on. As it was coming on, it was being canceled — including (in) Cleveland, my hometown, I might add. It was very, very economical, because we had an opening-night party and a cancellation party the same night."

Conway added, "I could have actually made a living doing pilots. ... I had five shows at CBS. Some were canceled, and I would start another one the next week."

available on the small screen, thanks to two new DVDs.

"Thou Shalt Laugh 2: The Deuce" features Conway as the emcee for five Christian comics, among them Victoria Jackson, a former cast member of "Saturday Night Live."

"Together Again" stars Conway and his "Carol Burnett" cohort, Harvey Korman, re-creating some of the most popular skits featured on the Burnett show as they toured the country, doing 125 shows a year.

"All those crazy things we did on Burnett, there was no jeopardy, no fear that we were going to do anything offensive. You could be funny for funny's sake," Conway told CNS.

"Everybody — in the Midwest and especially in the Christian belt — they don't watch television anymore" because of violence, language and nudity," he said.

"I'm not a prude and I'm not out to burn DVDs or scripts. It's not the place," Conway said. "We're trying to get back the kind of humor that came from 'The Carol Burnett Show' and Carson and Sid Caesar, Steve Allen, Don Knotts, Louis Nye, Tom Poston — what's more enjoyable than watching that kind of thing at night?"

A member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Encino, Conway said he isn't made to feel uncomfortable by parishioners because of his celebrity status.

"They see me for what I am," he added, quipping, "I like to go into a confessional and stay for an hour and a half, and just let people wonder."

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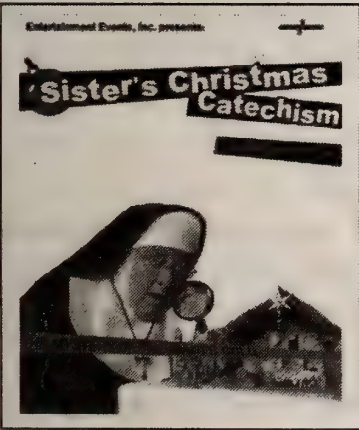
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CNS PHOTO BY CORINNE SIMON, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

People pray at the Massabielle grotto in Lourdes, France, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. The Vatican has confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI will visit Lourdes in 2008 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions. This is a 1999 file photo.

## Bishop: People can identify with St. Bernadette at Lourdes

LOURDES, from page 1

"strong in the head," and Mary chose her, said the bishop.

When the 14-year-old girl was with Mary, she always was confident, Bishop Perrier told Catholic News Service through a translator.

Noting that today people are expected to be successful and make money off of their own experiences, he said St. Bernadette "made a choice to remain poor, and she was always very humble."

St. Bernadette entered religious life in 1862 and remained hidden from the world.

Bishop Perrier was in Washington to discuss the yearlong celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions at Lourdes. The jubilee year opens on the feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8 and will be celebrated with pilgrimages, missions, conferences and a papal visit to Lourdes.

The events will involve places throughout the world associated with the name of Lourdes and St. Bernadette, including several hundred places in the United States.

On Feb. 11, 1858, St. Bernadette, her

sister and a friend went looking for wood and bones. As she was taking off her stockings and shoes to get ready to cross a canal, she heard a gust of wind and saw a young woman dressed in white.

That was the first of 18 apparitions.

The message from Mary at Lourdes — conversion and penance — is needed every day, Bishop Perrier told CNS.

He said people can change their behavior, have a conversion of heart and internal reconciliation with the past or with family, and strengthen their relationship with God.

Noting the millions of people who have experienced conversion and cures at Lourdes, he said someone might think, "If all these people experience that before me, maybe I can experience that myself."

For those who cannot travel to Lourdes, Bishop Perrier said people can experience the celebrations by linking to the images and live pictures on the jubilee Web site — [www.lourdes2008.com](http://www.lourdes2008.com).

He added that a novena, which will be available online in English, will be offered especially for those unable to visit Lourdes. Through the novena, all people around the world can experience the story of Lourdes, said the bishop.

Every year, more than 500,000 Catholics are estimated to visit the sanctuaries at Lourdes.

## Officials confirm papal visit to Lourdes to mark Marian apparitions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Officials confirmed Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France to mark the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions there, but said the exact time period of the papal visit was not yet known.

Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes, who is in charge of the preparations for the jubilee celebrations, said the papal journey was "a sure thing."

The bishop and others spoke to journalists during a Nov. 13 Vatican press conference, unveiling details of the yearlong jubilee celebrations.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, head of the Vatican press office, said the papal trip "most probably" would have Lourdes as its sole destination and for now would not include stops in other cities.

Bishop Perrier said he is often asked if the pope will arrive at Lourdes for one of the "significant moments" for the church, such as Feb. 11, the day the apparitions began and also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, or Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption.

Bishop Perrier said whatever date the pope decides for his visit would be a significant moment for them.

He said Cardinal Ivan Dias, president of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, will lead celebrations when the jubilee kicks off in Lourdes Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

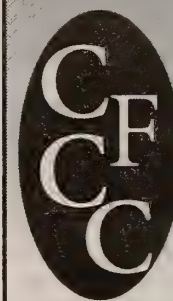
The French bishop added there also "might be a televised link" with the pope as he visits a Marian monument in the center of Rome the same day.

Beginning Feb. 11, 1858, Mary appeared on 18 different occasions in a cave near Lourdes to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor 14-year-old girl.

Bishop Perrier said the apparitions still "nourish the church" today. He said Lourdes continues to contribute to the mission of the church and spread the Gospel in the world.

### WANT MORE INFO?

Further details of the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions can be found online at [www.lourdes2008.com](http://www.lourdes2008.com).



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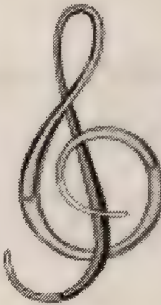
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# Praying for life

*Night of prayer for life to be held in churches around diocese*

CHARLOTTE — The 18th annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be held in several churches in the Diocese of Charlotte Dec. 8-9.

The event is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and hymns.

"On this evening, we assemble to ask God's help and forgiveness for sins against our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — the unborn," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

Parishes typically begin the service at 9 p.m. on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, and continue until 1 a.m. on Dec. 9, when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the Americas and the unborn.

"The National Night of Prayer bridges these two feasts to honor Our Blessed Mother and to pray for the sanctity of all human life," said Nadol.

The "hour of unity" is midnight-1 a.m., so all parishes in the four U.S. time zones can be linked in prayer at the same time.

However, due to unique schedules and conditions, some parishes may adjust the schedule of the service.

"For many years, this event has brought believers into the presence of our Eucharist and our Blessed Mother to pray for an end to the tragedy of abortion," said Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life.

"Such activity on the part of God's

people is a fulfillment of our Holy Father's call in 'The Gospel of Life,' as well as the call of our U.S. bishops, to have more fervent, regular prayer on behalf of life," he said.

## WANT TO GO?

The National Night of Prayer for Life runs 9 p.m., Dec. 8, until 1 a.m., Dec. 9. However, times may vary for participating churches. Please call the church for the schedule.

## Participating churches in the Diocese of Charlotte area:

— Holy Spirit Church, Denver (704) 483-6448

— Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro (336) 274-6520

— Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury (704) 633-0591

— St. James the Greater Church, Concord (704) 720-0600

— St. Luke Church, Mint Hill (704) 545-1224

— St. Mark Church, Huntersville (704) 948-0231

— St. Matthew Church, Charlotte (704) 543-7677

— St. Pius X Church, Greensboro (336) 272-4681

— St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte (704) 549-1607

# Seminarian for diocese now an acolyte



COURTESY PHOTO

John Eckert (center), a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, is pictured with Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, and Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio after a Nov. 18 Mass in the seminary's chapel.

## John Eckert among 20 theologians instituted as readers or altar servers

COLUMBUS, Ohio — John Eckert, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, has become an acolyte.

Eckert was one of 20 seminarians from 12 dioceses to be instituted into the liturgical ministries of lector (reader) or acolyte (altar server) during an installation Mass in St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 18.

Bishop George V. Murry Youngstown, Ohio, a member of the seminary's board of trustees, celebrated the Mass in the company of visiting priests, families of the candidates and friends and benefactors of the Josephinum.

Once termed minor orders, the positions of lector and acolyte are conferred to first- and second-year theologians prior to their diaconate and priestly ordinations.

"In accepting the call to be instituted as lectors and acolytes, you aspire to participate in an ancient ministry as a means of furthering your preparation for ordination to the priesthood," said Bishop Murry.

"The church is grateful for and blessed by your willingness to serve," he said.

First-year theology students installed as lectors are commissioned to proclaim the word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful.

During the ceremony, the candidates knelt before Bishop Murry, who gave each one a Bible, and said, "Take this

"The church is grateful for and blessed by your willingness to serve."

— Bishop Gregory V. Murry

book of Holy Scripture, and be faithful in handing on the Word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people."

The candidates for acolytes, who are second-year theologians, were entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Communion as extraordinary ministers.

They may also expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

The candidates approached the bishop and knelt before him as he held a paten with bread in it and said, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his church."

All the candidates were charged by Bishop Murry to "proclaim God's word clearly and authoritatively. Distribute the holy Eucharist with patience and reverence. Be witnesses to the Gospel in your lives so that in and through your ministry the blind may see, the deaf may hear, and the poor may rejoice in the Good News."

## Important Upcoming Pro-Life Events for the Diocese of Charlotte

### National Night of Prayer for Life —

Saturday, December 8th — Check your parish for details.

### NC Right to Life Prayer Breakfast and

March for Life/Raleigh — Saturday, January 12  
Call 1-800-392-6275 or visit: ncrtl.org.

### March for Life/Charlotte —

Friday, January 18 — 12 noon.

Gather at parking lot across from the Catholic Pastoral Center, W. Palmer and S. Church St.  
Questions? Call Tina: 704-846-7361

### March for Life/Washington, D.C. —

Tuesday, January 22

Mass at 10:30 am, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Peter J. Jugis.  
Please call the diocesan Respect Life Office (704-370-3229) or mnadol@charlottediocese.org for information, or if your parish is planning on taking a bus.

For information, call Maggi Nadol,  
Diocesan Respect Life Office — 704-370-3229.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints



December 2007

## Fighting HIV/AIDS, keeping the promise

### CRS reaches millions with hope and healing

On Dec. 1, World AIDS Day is observed by the international community, bringing renewed attention to the needs of the more than 33 million people who suffer from HIV/AIDS.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise."

The spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the varied diseases that often accompany later-stage HIV infection and signify the onset of acquired immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are complex health issues that require a variety of health, educational and social responses.

The two issues are usually grouped together as HIV/AIDS. It is important, however, to note that one might be infected with HIV and be capable of infecting others with HIV, but not yet suffer from the life-threatening illnesses associated with AIDS.

UNAIDS, the United Nations agency that coordinates the global campaign against AIDS, recently scaled back its estimate of the number of people living with HIV by approximately 6 million. While such a decrease in HIV/AIDS numbers is good news, there remains a crisis for the 33.2 million people with HIV/AIDS, their families and their communities.

Msgr. Robert Vitillo, special adviser on HIV/AIDS for Caritas Internationalis based in Vatican City, sees beyond the numbers in the scope of actions that we must take to treat not just the disease, but "all the factors in our society that continue to fuel the spread of the disease and inhibit our response, such as stigma and discrimination, violence and injustice against women, poverty, isolation, abuse" (as quoted in a Nov. 23 news release from ZENIT).

By offering medical assistance, encouraging prevention, caring for orphaned children and addressing a broad range of economic development concerns, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) — the U.S. bishops' international aid agency — offers a faithful, compassionate and effective response to HIV/AIDS.

With more than 200 HIV/AIDS projects overseas, CRS states it will directly help more than 3.5 million people this year. As U.S. Catholics, we can be especially proud of CRS's response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Up until 2005, CRS's primary HIV/AIDS-related focus was to help individuals with AIDS and their families in their suffering and in preparing for death. While CRS continues to offer compassionate care for those dying from AIDS, today CRS also helps many HIV/AIDS patients to "live positively" with their infection.

Since 2005, CRS has been one of the numerous agencies receiving funds

### Guest Column

JOSEPH  
PURELLO  
GUEST COLUMNIST



from the U.S. government's \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. CRS has been able to combine these new resources with donations from individuals in the United States to provide thousands of HIV/AIDS-infected persons with life saving antiretroviral (ARV) medicines.

One account of a CRS ARV therapy project in Zambia, which assists 17,500 Zambians infected with HIV/AIDS, discusses the phenomenon known by locals as the "Lazarus Effect" (as reported in the book, "Solidarity will Transform the World"). Many people who were near death from AIDS have recovered to such an extent from ARV therapy that they are working once again, supporting themselves and their families.

Though the "Lazarus Effect" of ARV therapy has indeed been a miracle for many Zambians, limited resources prevent two-thirds of Zambians living with HIV/AIDS from having access to life-saving ARV therapy.

In those areas not reached by ARV treatments, traditional safety nets are threatened and children often leave school early to care for siblings and manage households.

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and especially in Southern Africa, the access to ARV treatment is limited and the battle against HIV/AIDS remains an uphill one. Researchers are now aware of unique epidemiological conditions between malaria and HIV that likely affect HIV prevalence rates in Africa.

While such knowledge is valuable, it comes with a greater understanding of just how complex this health crisis is.

Prayer, charitable works and donations are all essential to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We also can thank those leaders in the U.S. government who are working hard to address HIV/AIDS and urge all our leaders to "keep the promise" made at numerous international forums to fight this global pandemic.

Visit [www.crs.org/actioncenter](http://www.crs.org/actioncenter) and sign up to receive CRS legislative alerts. Read more about the HIV/AIDS related programs of CRS at [www.crs.org/hiv-aids](http://www.crs.org/hiv-aids).

Joseph Purello is director of Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, there have been those men and women who, called by God, took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience upon entering religious communities. Many of us remember them as the teachers, nurses and social workers who ministered to others as the hands of Christ in our world today.

Now nearly 38,000 of these women and men — who lived frugally and accepted little compensation for their ministries — are past the age of 70. Currently there are 5,452 men and women religious in need of skilled nursing care, costing more than \$272 million annually. Almost without exception, our elderly and infirm religious offer moving examples of aging with grace, dignity and faith. Most elderly religious even continue volunteer ministry long after they retire from compensated ministry.

The cost of funding retirement benefits for them is the responsibility of each religious institute, rather than the diocese. Since the first national annual appeal took place in Catholic parishes in 1988, more than \$529 million has been raised for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Yet, one out of every five religious institutes has less than 20 percent of the amount needed to care for elderly members.

On the weekend of Dec. 8-9, Catholics throughout the Diocese of Charlotte will have an opportunity to "Share in the Care" of our retired religious. The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken at all Masses during that second weekend in December. I encourage you to acknowledge the treasure that our elderly religious represent and respond generously to their retirement needs.

Grateful for your prayers and generosity toward the retired religious throughout the United States, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Mauricio W. West

Vicar General and Chancellor

## Conversing with God

Great column by Rico De Silva on "Does God have a cell phone?" (Nov. 2). However, I don't think God would need to put his phone on vibrate to "take a call" from me.

Having a math degree, I've had an introduction to infinite dimension spaces. I believe God is 100 percent with each one of us in the dimension of us as individuals.

In regular space, if God is with me in Charlotte, he can't be with the pope in Rome, but with the infinite dimensions of God, it's easy. That applies to time, as well.

At least that's how I can deal with

### Letter to the Editor

the polite human idea of not wanting to "hog" God's attention. He has all he needs for me, and infinitely more for everybody else.

I'm with Mr. De Silva on our turning off our phones for a talk with God every day. Or call him on the phone! He'll answer.

— Nancy Mosley  
Charlotte



# Getting into the spirit of Advent

*Going from profane to sacred is a few easy steps*

Experiencing awe is a main objective of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. These exercises prompt us to literally throw ourselves into Scripture when meditating.

Advent encourages us to do this too — to enter more deeply into the life of God and to heighten our spiritual imagination.

Unfortunately, Advent is also a season when marketers attempt to heighten our secular appetites; hence the thunderous clash between the profane and sacred.

The word “profane” means to be outside the temple. Not only does the commercialized Christmas season prompt us to stay away from the temple, it employs every means possible to get us to worship in our shopping malls.

One of the biggest postmodern challenges Christians face is countering this with sacred peace.

May I suggest visiting art museums? Even though they may not be nearby, they are at our fingertips.

I got this idea from my mother years

ago when she came to Washington to visit me. I wondered then where I could take her after everything she’d seen on past visits.

She suggested, “Let’s go to the religious art section of the National Gallery of Art. It’s Eastertime. Where better to get into its spirit?”

How right she was!

As we moved from paintings of the Madonna and Christ to those of notable saints, I found myself wondering about their awesomeness.

Later I learned that the awe I was experiencing is one of the main objectives of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius.

Ignatius would say, “If, for example, we are meditating on Christ meeting Peter along the shores of the Sea of Galilee (or, for that matter, meditating on a painting that depicts this), smell the sea breezes, listen to the water lapping against the shore, imagine how Christ looked and spoke. Enter into the scene with all your imaginative powers!”

The Vatican Museum has a Web site

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



that contains magnificent scenes from Scripture. It allows you to enlarge them and study the artist’s minute details, what he or she is trying to portray ([http://mv.vatican.va/3\\_EN/pages/MV\\_Home.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html)).

All art galleries have similar Web sites filled with religious art. Just type in a gallery’s name and you’ll be in the midst of sacred art and holy thoughts.

Today we can experience virtual imaging and shop in massive malls filled with remarkable items. We also live in a frenzy-stimulated existence like never before.

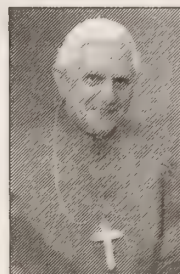
We can’t turn the clock back! We can, however, select the best this age offers to enhance our spiritual life.

This Advent we have a magnificent means for entering more deeply into the sacred peace of God. All it takes is one click to transport ourselves from the profane to the sacred.

## Western Christians can learn much from Eastern Christians, says pope

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christianity is not and never has been a uniquely European phenomenon, and Christians of the West can learn much from the cultural expressions of Eastern Christians, especially those of the early church, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Today it is a common opinion that Christianity is a European religion that exported European culture to other countries, but the reality is much more complicated and complex,” he said Nov. 28 at his weekly general audience.

“It is not only that the roots of the Christian religion are found in Jerusalem, in the Old Testament, in the Semitic world and Christianity is constantly nourished by these Old Testament roots, but the expansion of Christianity in the first centuries” went simultaneously West and East,” he said.

The pope’s main audience talk focused on the life, teaching and poetry of St. Ephraem the Syrian, a fourth-century deacon.

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict’s remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this week’s catechesis we turn to St. Ephrem, the greatest of the Syriac Fathers and the most renowned poet of the patristic age.

St. Ephrem’s theology, deeply grounded in the Scriptures and profoundly orthodox in content, was expressed in poetic language marked by striking paradoxes and vivid imagery.

Through his mastery of poetic symbolism, Ephrem sought to communicate, especially in his hymns, the mystery of the trinitarian God, the incarnation of the eternal son born of the Virgin Mary, and the spiritual treasures contained in the Eucharist.

His poetry and hymns not only enriched the liturgy; they also proved an important means of catechesis for the Christian community in the fourth century.

Particularly significant is Ephrem’s teaching on our redemption by Christ: his poetic descriptions of the interplay of the divine and human aspects of this great mystery foreshadowed the theology and, to some extent, even the language of the great christological definitions of the councils of the next century.

In his life-long service to the church as a deacon, St. Ephrem was an example of fidelity to the liturgy, meditation on the mystery of Christ and charitable service to his brothers and sisters.

# The voice of leadership so absent today

*Catholics have responsibility to proclaim Christ’s message*

The world’s lone superpower is in desperate need of leadership — of the wise and moral kind!

For far too long the ship of state has been drifting aimlessly in an ocean of despair. Having disembarked without an ethical map and compassionate compass to guide them, most Democrats and Republicans have aimlessly steered the U.S.S. America into dangerous waters.

U.S. “leaders” are sleeping while countless human beings are being tossed into a sea of suffering. The nation is the world’s richest — at least for some. Entertainers, athletes and corporate CEOs are making a bundle while many working-class people are barely able to make ends meet.

For the poor, it’s an uphill climb all the way. Over 36 million men, women and children live in poverty. Out of sight in U.S. inner cities, rural communities and Appalachian hollows, the poor suffer in silence.

Insufficient nutritious food, often little to no health care (over 45 million are uninsured), broken-down schools, underemployment (federal minimum wage is still only \$5.15 per hour), high unemployment and dilapidated housing are among the daunting challenges faced by America’s poor.

Furthermore, in the U.S. over 17,000 people are murdered annually.

And approximately 3.5 million people experience homelessness every year.

Many American corporations unscrupulously profit from goods made in foreign sweatshops. The “entertainment” industry spews violence and sex into millions of homes, heating prices are skyrocketing, pollution is contaminating the air and waterways and is contributing significantly to global warming, threatening life on earth as we know it.

In the United States, legal abortion brutally murders over 1.2 million unborn babies annually, while embryonic stem-cell research and cloning threaten to kill even more.

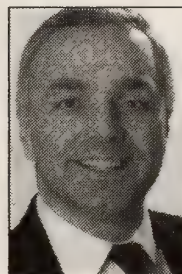
Instead of using its wealth to eradicate global hunger and poverty, the U.S. government will waste hundreds of billions of dollars on military spending this new fiscal year for nuclear weapons, maintaining troops in over 140 nations, massive shipments of armaments to foreign countries and for waging wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And on top of all this immorality, U.S. “leaders” are planning a new war — this time in Iran.

Throughout the world the United States is scorned. If Americans keep living in denial, refusing to admit that our nation is suffering from an absence of leadership, then we will continue to

## Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



deserve exactly what we have.

But Christians cannot settle for that. How can followers of Jesus rest comfortably in the midst of such misery?

The Gospel and 100 years of Catholic social teaching point to an infinitely better way. Christ is calling Americans to radically change the course of our nation!

During the U.S. bishops’ November meeting in Baltimore, outgoing president Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., said, “As bishops, a deep and Christlike vision of leadership must be at the heart of our service. ... Our time needs to hear the voice of Christ.”

And what is Christ’s message for us today? The same message he gave to his first followers:

Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ... Blessed are the peacemakers. ... Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. ... Forgive.”

This is the message the United States and the world needs to hear — again and again — from bishops and all followers of the Prince of Peace.

This is the voice of leadership so absent today.





CNS PHOTO BY JACKY NAEGELEN, REUTERS

A woman affected by AIDS attends a support group organized by Medecins du Monde at the hospital in Ouidah, Benin, Nov. 28. Medecins du Monde is a medical relief agency with health care projects around the world.

# The face of AIDS

*Pope offers prayers for families of millions who died of AIDS in 2007*

NUMBER OF NEWLY INFECTED VICTIMS FALLING, SAYS UNAIDS

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI offered his prayers for the families of the estimated 2.1 million people who have died of AIDS this year, and he asked all people to work to end discrimination against those living with AIDS and HIV.

At the end of his Nov. 28 general audience, the pope spoke about the Dec. 1 commemoration of World AIDS Day.

"I am spiritually close to those who suffer because of this terrible disease and their families, especially those who have lost a relative," he said.

"I assure all of them of my prayers," the pope said.

"In addition, I want to exhort all people of good will to multiply their efforts to stop the spread of the HIV virus, to oppose the scorn which often strikes those who are afflicted with it and to take care of the sick, especially when they are still youngsters," he said.

According to figures released

Nov. 20 by UNAIDS, the U.N. agency that coordinates the global campaign against AIDS, "global HIV prevalence — the percentage of people living with HIV — has leveled off" and the number of new infections each year has fallen.

UNAIDS estimated that in 2007 about 33.2 million people were living with HIV, 2.5 million became infected and 2.1 million died of AIDS.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most affected, with an estimated 22.5 million people infected, it said.

"The number of new HIV infections per year is now estimated to have peaked in the late 1990s," UNAIDS said, reflecting "natural trends in the epidemic" as well as greater HIV prevention efforts.

The UNAIDS data estimated that 2.5 million children under the age of 15 were living with HIV/AIDS, including 420,000 children who contracted the virus in 2007.

More than 330,000 children under 15 died of AIDS during this year.

## RELATED COVERAGE

Read Joseph Purello's column on page 14 about CRS's efforts to fight AIDS.



CNS PHOTO BY ANTONY NIUGUNA, REUTERS

Orphans whose parents died of AIDS gather around a waterspout in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 8. Pope Benedict XVI offered his prayers for the families of the estimated 2.1 million people who died of AIDS this year and asked all people to work to end discrimination against those who have AIDS and HIV.

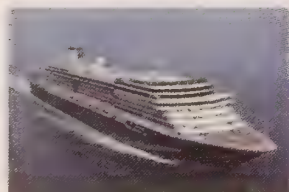
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'The Golden Compass'  
Film adaption of atheist  
author's novel reviewed  
by U.S. bishops' Office for  
Film & Broadcasting.

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DECEMBER 7, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 7

## To combat poverty

Applications invited for  
local CCHD grants

BY MARY JANE BRUTON  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Charlotte is accepting grant applications for the 2008 funding year.

The diocesan CCHD program gives grants from \$500 to \$5,000 to agencies and

See CCHD, page 6

## Digging through the despair

Amid Nicaragua's  
poverty, religious groups,  
aid agencies offer hope

BY GREG TARCZYNSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — At Managua's La Chureca garbage dump in Nicaragua, thousands of vultures swarm through acrid smoke rising out of burning and smoldering mounds of garbage.

Thousands more vultures pick through garbage on the ground. They also compete with a herd of cattle that have been put here to graze on the waste of a city.

In their midst, hundreds of men, women and children, many in bare feet, scramble to find their own scraps of food

See POVERTY, page 12

## Two religions, one goal — unity

Catholic and Lutheran  
bishops reaffirm  
covenant from 1991

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — Catholics and Lutherans of North Carolina recently took another step forward together.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis joined with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh and Bishop Leonard H. Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to reaffirm a covenant of unity, which was first set forth 16 years ago.

The three bishops signed the covenant during a formal ceremony at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in Winston-Salem Dec. 2.

Bishop Jugis had met with both bishops over the past few years to discuss their call to unity and looked forward to the signing.



PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, Lutheran Bishop Leonard Bolick and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh are pictured during a covenant affirmation ceremony at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in Winston-Salem Dec. 2.

See COVENANT, page 5



CNS FILE PHOTO BY MARY ANN WYAND, THE CRITERION

The essential aspect of Christian hope is trust in eternal salvation brought by Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said in his second encyclical, "Spe Salvi." Pictured: Evening sunlight illuminates a crucifix in the Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel in Indianapolis.

## 'Spe Salvi' for salvation

People need God to have hope, pope says in  
new encyclical

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In an encyclical on Christian hope, Pope Benedict XVI said that, without faith in God, humanity lies at the mercy of ideologies that can lead to "the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice."

The pope warned that the modern age has replaced belief in eternal salvation with faith in

progress and technology, which offer opportunities for good but also open up "appalling possibilities for evil."

"Let us put it very simply: Man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope," he said in the encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), released Nov. 30.

See HOPE, page 8

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Star council  
Arden Knights of Columbus  
win distinguished award

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Respect Life  
Conference explores impact  
of abortion on men

| PAGE 7

Perspectives  
God's gift of humor; value of  
saying 'no' in can-do world

| PAGES 14-15



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## CROSSING OVER



CNS PHOTO BY PAULA GOLDAPP, SOUTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

Father Piotr Koziel, pastor of St. Gertrude Parish in Kingsville, Texas, leads a Nov. 2 blessing of the graves of unidentified undocumented immigrants who died in south Texas after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Members of the Kingsville community cleared brush from Sarita Cemetery, which is off a dirt road on the Kenedy Ranch in south Texas.

## South Texas community gives immigrant cemetery a touch of dignity

SARITA, Texas (CNS) — There is little evidence of dignity in the deaths of the undocumented men, women and children found among the south Texas cactus and brush over the past few decades.

Despite the circumstances that prompted them to cross the U.S.-Mexican border and regardless of their legal status in the eyes of the government, Father Piotr Koziel said lending dignity to their final resting place is "the right thing to do."

Seven years ago the priest made his first trip to Sarita Cemetery, located off a dirt road on the Kenedy Ranch. The site, overgrown with grass and weeds, impacted him in such a way that he recruited others to return and remember those who died in the area but were never identified.

Now each year in preparation for the Nov. 2 feast of All Souls' blessing of the graves, a group cleans the site and makes improvements to the area where the dead are all but forgotten.

But many of them live on in the memory of Rafael Cuellar Jr., born and reared in Sarita, and a 34-year law enforcement veteran who retired in 2000.

Just as remembering the dead is part of Father Koziel's job as pastor of St. Gertrude Parish in nearby Kingsville, Cuellar said his job as constable, deputy sheriff and finally sheriff included retrieving the dead from the brush lands of Kenedy County.

"It was awful to see what I have seen," said Cuellar, who estimated that

he buried more than 70 people at the cemetery during his tenure.

Last year, the U.S. government recorded the deaths of more than 450 who died while making their way through south Texas. The numbers dropped by about 100 for 2007.

Dehydration, exposure to the extreme heat in the summer and unexpected cold in the winter are among the factors that lead to death.

This year's cleanup of the cemetery involved a group of students from St. Gertrude School who gathered with their pastor and other members of the community to offer their prayers and labor for the dead.

Others participants included students from the Catholic student organization at Texas A&M University in Kingsville.

Parishioners made wooden forms in the shape of crosses and then poured concrete to make sturdy headstones to replace wooden ones. The elementary school students from St. Gertrude put a white coat of paint on each new cross.

On Nov. 2, after Scripture readings and a moment of silent prayer, Father Koziel blessed each grave with holy water. St. Gertrude students placed rosaries and flowers on the headstones.

"I liked blessing the graves and praying for the people so they could go live in peace in heaven," said Josephine Bartolazo, a fourth-grader at St. Gertrude.

Sixth-grader Matthew Hewitt, said, "It felt good to do something for them to help them."

## Venezuelan bishops to be wary of Chavez's hunger for power

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — A package of constitutional reforms proposed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez that would have increased the president's powers and established a "socialist economy" was defeated narrowly by voters.

Retired Archbishop Ramon Perez Morales of Los Teques said the Dec. 3 vote "opens a new chapter in the nation's history, a chapter which must be characterized by the word 'meeting.' Venezuela must not be the same as before."

It was the first defeat for Chavez at the polls in nearly a decade. Chavez called the opposition victory "pyrrhic" and resolved to move the nation toward socialism using other means.

Archbishop Roberto Luckert Leon of Coro, vice president of the Venezuelan bishops' conference, called on Venezuelans to be careful Chavez does not use other means to expand his powers.

He urged the opposition to unite

behind the strongest candidates for governor and municipal offices in upcoming regional elections.

Before the balloting, the Venezuelan bishops' conference issued a statement calling the reforms "unnecessary, morally unacceptable and not a good idea for the country."

The bishops said in their Nov. 26 statement that the reforms would "restrict many civil, social and political human rights enshrined in the constitution, create grounds for political discrimination and introduce new areas of confrontation and polarization among Venezuelans."

Proposals to put the currently autonomous Central Reserve Bank under presidential control and remove the two-term limit for presidents were among the most controversial.

The reforms also would have given the government greater control over the country's petroleum and gas deposits and over agriculture, "if necessary," to ensure food security.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Taize Prayer Service* is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taize is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Msgr. Richard Bellow and Father Pat Hoare will be concelebrating and Deacons Ron Sherwood and Robert Murphy will be assisting at the Mass. There will be a candlelit

procession of worshipers into the church at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reenactment of the apparition to St. Juan Diego. Dinner will follow the Mass. For more information, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

HUNTERSVILLE — The *Sixth Annual Christmas Pageant* will take place Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. This is an evening you won't want to miss as our children and youth celebrate the anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ through song, dance and pageantry. Admission for the event is free, and everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for Catholic Social Services Food Pantry. For more information, e-mail Donna Smith at [dsmith18@bellsouth.net](mailto:dsmith18@bellsouth.net).

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with "Lunchtime Spirituality" at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic for Dec. 13 will be Hans Urs von Balthasar's "Unless You Become Like This Child." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 18. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon Streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — The *Healing Prayer Group* will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physical. Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday of each month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## L'Osservatore: Papal invite to Muslims opens door to higher dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By inviting a varied group of Muslim scholars to meet with him, Pope Benedict XVI has opened the possibility for a higher-level dialogue between Catholic and Muslim leaders, the Vatican newspaper said.

The newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, commented Nov. 30 on a letter to the pope from 138 Muslim scholars and the pope's invitation in response.

The newspaper quoted German Jesuit Father Christian Troll, a scholar of Islam, who said that the 138 scholars represent a wide and diverse portion of the world's Muslim community, and the fact that they were able to write to the pope together is important.

The letter, Father Troll said, is an initiative "which the church can only look favorably upon because it needs a skilled dialogue with the non-Christian world."

L'Osservatore said, "The pope's response opens concrete horizons

for this hope."

The pope's invitation included a suggestion that the scholars hold a working meeting with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and with experts from Rome's Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies and from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

The former president of the Gregorian institute promoting interreligious dialogue and the study of Islam, Jesuit Father Daniel Madigan, said, "It is very important that there has now been a clear acknowledgment of the approaches made by these Muslim scholars."

While the pope said the purpose of Catholic-Muslim dialogue is to promote "justice and peace in society and throughout the world," said Father Madigan, "the theological aspect of this is essential because our visions of justice, peace and society are all formed by our belief — we cannot avoid talking about it."

7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner at [chlt5nc@aol.com](mailto:chlt5nc@aol.com).

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A new study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Dec. 11 and 18, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail [teallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:teallfleming@yahoo.com).

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The family life committee of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, hosts a *Scrapbooking Night* on the second Friday of every month, 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Looking back through our family photo albums can be a form of prayer as we give thanks for the blessings the Lord has provided for us. Adding Scripture and prayers to your family albums is a great way to evangelize to your family and children. For more information, call the office at (828) 327-4558.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gerry Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church,

234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise, music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — The *Knitting Ministry* of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., to pray, learn to knit, reflect on life's lessons and reach out to others in our community. Opportunities exist for the beginner to the experienced as we knit and purl Prayer Shawls, Premie Blankets or Squares for Survivors. Please contact Rosemary at (336) 766-2315 or Carmel (336) 766-0650 for more information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Pope says Advent is good time to rediscover hope, read encyclical

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI began Advent by summarizing his latest encyclical on Christian hope and encouraging people to read it.

The time before Christmas is a good period to rediscover the hope that Christ brought to human history, which can "change one's life," the pope said Dec. 2, the first Sunday of Advent.

He said he wrote his second encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), for the entire church and for all people of good will.

Addressing pilgrims at his noon blessing, the pope said the essence of Christian hope is an awareness of God and "the discovery that he has the heart of a good and merciful father."

Christ's life and death gave God's love a human face, he said.

Emphasizing a point he made in his encyclical, the pope said modern science holds out much that is good, but "cannot redeem humanity."

On Dec. 1, presiding over an evening

prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said Advent was the time to understand that Christian hope is not "vague and illusory" but is embodied in Jesus Christ.

The days leading up to Christmas can be a time of spiritual reawakening, a reminder that Christ "does not stop knocking at our door," he said.

The pope said he tried to make clear in his encyclical that Christianity brought something new to the pagan societies of old, but he added that it also speaks to the "paganism of our days."

Contemporary paganism, the pope said, is a "nihilism that corrodes hope in the human heart, leading the person to think that nothingness reigns inside and outside of himself: nothing before birth, nothing after death."

The Christian perspective, on the contrary, is that hope makes sense as the human response to a loving God, he said.

"What else moves the world forward, if not the trust that God has in man?" he said.

## Saving Christmas



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Firefighter Cornell Walker tosses a box of toys to George Dowling, an emergency medical technician, during the 9th annual "Toy Parade" in Chicago Dec. 1. Thousands of toys for needy children cared for by Catholic Charities were delivered to a union hall; the toys were collected by firefighters and paramedics from almost every firehouse in the city.

The annual motorcade has become a highlight of Catholic Charities' toy shower, which is part of its annual monthlong Celebration of Giving.

### CORRECTION

St. Barnabas Church in Arden was not included in a list of churches participating in the National Night of Prayer for Life Dec. 8-9. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 9 — 9:30 a.m.

Installation of Father John Denny as pastor  
St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Maggie Valley

Dec. 11 — 6:30 p.m.

Musica y Flores del Tepeyac Program  
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

Dec. 12 — 7 p.m.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Dec. 22 — 10 a.m.

Diaconate ordination of Brad Jones  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte



## Arden Knights of Columbus win distinguished Star Council Award

*Award recognizes excellence in membership, service-oriented activities*

ARDEN — Knights of Columbus Father Joseph Maule Council 8923 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden recently earned the Star Council Award, the supreme council's highest honor, for the 2006-07 fraternal year.

David Jones, the Knights' N.C. state council secretary, presented the award to George Moody, head of Council 8923, during a special ceremony Nov. 13.

The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

"Receiving the Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment," said Moody.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson issued a statement to Council 8923.

"Your dedication to the order is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead," said Anderson.

"May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the church, your community and the order," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the church and their communities.

With more than 1.7 million members

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story for The Catholic News & Herald? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus N.C. state secretary David Jones (left) presents the Star Council Award to George Moody, head of Council 8923 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Nov. 13.

in more than 13,000 councils around the world, the Knights annually donate more than \$143 million and 68 million hours of service to charitable causes.

#### WANT MORE INFO?

For more on the Knights of Columbus, visit [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org).

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## Bringing the divine



COURTESY PHOTO

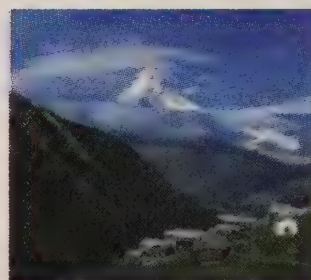
Father Fidel Melo, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, is pictured with members of the parish's Divine Mercy Cenacle Nov. 20. Fifteen members of the group made their formal commitments to live as Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy (EADM). Father Melo presided at the induction ceremony.

EADM is a lay outreach ministry of the Marians of Immaculate Conception province based in Stockbridge, Mass. The Eucharistic Apostles strive to spread and live the Divine Mercy message as given to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who in the 1930s received a vision of Christ as the Divine Mercy.

In the vision, Christ told her that he would show mercy to those who prayed for it and who share that mercy with others. Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday a week after Easter.

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- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area — plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
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# Catholic, Lutheran bishops reaffirm covenant

COVENANT, from page 1

"I have been bishop for four years now and have been waiting for this day since my ordination," he said.

The covenant was created to bond Catholics and Lutherans in North Carolina in the spirit of ecumenism and cooperation. Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue of Charlotte, then-Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh and then-Lutheran Bishop Michael McDaniel first signed the covenant on Pentecost Sunday, 1991.

At the time, the covenant was the third agreement of its kind in the United States between church officials on the diocesan/synodical level.

The covenant's foundation rests on the shared Gospel beliefs that the Lord desires unity for his followers; that "we all may be one," as stated in the document.

It outlined 16 objectives designed to encourage closer dialogue, cooperative ecumenical efforts and ministries between Lutherans and Catholics at the local and diocesan/synodical levels.

These objectives include praying for each other; praying together in joint services; observing together such occasions as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25), which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2008; the World Day of Prayer; and Lenten devotions.

Other items encourage learning more about each other for better understanding and cooperation and the establishment of the ecumenical committee.

A reading of the two-page covenant document was part of the Dec. 2 ceremony. It states six points of affirmation, and begins "that inasmuch as all unity comes from the unity of the Triune God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" and continues "we are called to make that given unity more visible among us."

Approximately 50 people attended the affirmation ceremony.

"We are honored to host this gathering," said Rev. Stephen Gerhard,

pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany.

"This is a remarkable statement in the unity of the church and an expression that would please our Lord," he said.

The ceremony included songs of welcome, thanksgiving and praise, psalms, Gospel readings and a homily by Father George Kloster, a member of the covenant committee since its inception.

Father Kloster is pastor of St. William Catholic Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in Hayesville.

"Authentic ecumenism is very, very demanding," said Father Kloster during the ceremony.

## Spirit of ecumenism

Before the covenant, the two Catholic bishops and the Lutheran bishop in North Carolina shared a personal relationship, according to Father Kloster. They would meet twice a year for prayer, he said.

In the spirit of ecumenism and an awareness of numerous theological works published in the 1970s by Catholic and Lutheran officials, the idea of a covenant came into being. Bishop McDaniel was the document's main drafter, with input from Bishops Donoghue and Gossman.

The covenant was ready a year prior to its signing. But the bishops wanted to circulate it around the state to increase awareness so the signing itself would include more involvement.

"We wanted to get as much input into the wording and we wanted others to be aware of the covenant ... and to let it begin with the parishes in preparation of the actual signing," said Bishop Donoghue in a 1991 interview.

The "original vision of the covenant is still to be fulfilled," said Father Kloster. "I'm not so sure what unity will look like," he said, but we must continue to be motivated and "never give up."

"Ecumenism is the task of the church in the sense that Jesus prayed that we all might be one," said Rev. Jim Lockley, pastor of Alamance Lutheran Church in Alamance and a member of the covenant committee for the past 12 years.

"Unfortunately ecumenism moves with glacial speed, but that is very characteristic of the church," he said.



FILE PHOTO BY JOANE S. KEANE

Then-Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, Lutheran Bishop Leonard H. Bolick and then-Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte are pictured after the re-signing of the Catholic and Lutheran covenant on its 10th anniversary at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro in 2001.

Accomplishments that have been made toward unity within the state include meetings between Catholic and Lutheran social services, media personnel and youth directors. Several joint youth conferences have been of particular success, according to Father Kloster.

The covenant also gave rise to the Luther-Aquinas Conference at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory, which just held its 16th installment this year, according to Rev. C. Pierson Shaw, Jr., the Lutheran synod's ecumenical representative who took part in the affirmation ceremony.

The covenant's greatest accomplishment, said Rev. Shaw, has been the establishment of local covenants throughout the state.

In Hickory, for example, a covenant has been drawn between St. Aloysius Catholic Church and Holy Trinity, St. Andrews and Mount Olive Lutheran churches. Other areas with local covenants include Newton, Greenville and Winston-Salem.

The state covenant was reaffirmed on its 10-year anniversary in 2001 by the three bishops at that time — Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte, Bishop Gossman and Bishop Bolick.

Rev. Shaw said it was important to acknowledge that members of both religions have studied together and discussed important works on ecumenism, including the Joint Declaration on the Document of Justification, an international statement formulated by some of the churches' highest leaders; and "A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism" by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Cardinal Kasper was one of the signers of the Joint Declaration in Augsburg, Germany in 1999 after several decades of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has its origins in a decree from the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s under Pope John XXIII that set into motion a shift toward ecumenism in the Catholic Church.

This opened the door to new insights into the study of justification and former differences in theology between the Catholic and Lutheran churches.

One of the key issues that led to the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century was a differing interpretation and application of the biblical message of justification, particularly the relation between faith and acts of good work.

Doctrinal condemnations were imprinted in the Council of Trent and in the Lutheran Confessionals. Since the Second Vatican Council, relations have improved.

## Hope for success

During the Dec. 2 affirmation ceremony, the bishops expressed enthusiasm about fulfilling the covenant.

"Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation and the one who holds us up and sustains us forever," said Bishop Burbidge. "That is the heart of the covenant ... to build up the body of Christ."

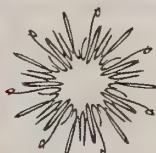
"We're going to share the two most important opportunities on earth, talking and listening to God," said Bishop Bolick.

"We have more work to do ... and will continue ongoing dialogue and theological discussions," said Bishop Jugis.

It "gives us hope that such progress toward full unity is possible," he said.

## WANT MORE INFO?

Read the Catholic and Lutheran covenant on the Diocese of Charlotte's Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Mercy Sister Mary Eugenia Hartman, 1924-2007

### Sister remembered for work with disabled children

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Eugenia Hartman died Dec. 3 in Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 83.

She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Feb. 2, 1942 and was in her 65th year as a Sister of Mercy.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Dec. 7, with burial following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Hartman was born Regina Hartman Feb. 19, 1924 in Philadelphia, Pa. She took the name Sister Mary Eugenia upon entering the Sisters of Mercy Aug. 1, 1941.

Sister Hartman studied at Sacred Heart College in Belmont; Mount Mercy College in Pittsburgh; and graduated from Belmont Abbey College in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in social studies.

Her postgraduate studies were done at University of North Carolina at Charlotte; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and two programs sponsored by the U. S. State Department that included study at the Drug Center in Charlotte and at Sacred Heart College.

In 1981 she completed work on her master's degree in school administration at Appalachian State University in Boone.

An adept educator, Sister Hartman taught at Holy Redeemer School in Newton Grove; St. Mary's School in Wilmington; Sacred Heart School in Salisbury; St. Gabriel School and Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte; St. Eugene School in Asheville and St. Michael School in Gastonia.

She taught and served as principal at St. Benedict's School in Belmont and served as a dorm counselor at St. Leo's Boarding School for Boys in Belmont.

She also taught at St. Agnes Elementary School in Greenport, N.Y., and at Sacred Heart College for three years where she served as a psychometrist tutor and as an educational consultant to the International Special Education Conference.

She was an active member of the National Catholic Educational Association, the National Educators Association and the Orton Society, and served as an associate member of the principals' association in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In 1978, she became principal of the lower school of Dore Academy in Charlotte, a position she held for 10 years. After her resignation in 1988, she served as a reading specialist for the school until 1994.

From 1983 until 1994, Sister Hartman served on the board of directors and trustees for Dore Academy. A retirement party was held for Sister Hartman in celebration of her exceptional talents serving the needs of bright children with specific learning disabilities.

An article in The Catholic News & Herald at the time of her retirement named her as "one of the Charlotte area's foremost leaders in reading education" for learning disabled children.

In her 19 years as an educator, specifically for the learning disabled, she taught more than 1,000 children with



Mercy Sister Mary Eugenia Hartman

learning disabilities to read.

Additionally, Sister Hartman served as head of the science and math departments at two schools; headed the Glee Club; was a moderator for the Civics Club; and taught private piano lessons, religion and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes. She also volunteered as a Sister Visitor to local hospitals.

Somewhere between her professional advancement, extracurricular activities, studies, lectures, development of workshops and her teaching, she found time to author a book, "A Course in Remedial Phonics, Writing, and Spelling," which was published as five booklets based on the Gillingham-Stillman method of teaching exceptional and learning disabled children.

Sister Hartman was the daughter of the late Harry Hartman and Frances Bové Hartman. She is survived by her regional community; by two sisters, Margaret Reilly of Greensboro, and Emma Lanni of Longwood, Fla.; a brother-in-law, John Costello of Chapel Hill; nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and a cousin, Augustinian Father Joseph Hartman.

Memorials may be made to the House of Mercy, P.O. Box 808, Belmont, N.C. 28012-0808, or to Holy Angels, 6600 E. Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC 28012-0710.

## Applications invited for local CCHD grants

CCHD, from page 1

organized groups within the western 46-counties of North Carolina that work to combat poverty in their communities.

Established in 1970 as the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, the CCHD is one of the largest private funders of self-help programs initiated and led by poor people in the United States.

Since its founding, the CCHD has awarded more than \$300 million to 7,800 projects.

This year the CCHD is awarding more than \$9.5 million in grants to support local projects working to eliminate the root causes of poverty. Grants will be distributed to 314 projects in 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Within the Diocese of Charlotte this year, \$46,827 was awarded in local grants to 22 agencies, bringing the local diocesan total since 1977 to \$536,523 awarded to 378 organizations across the 46 counties.

"Overcoming widespread poverty in the richest nation on earth is a moral imperative," said John Carr, CCHD interim executive director, noting that according to the U.S. Census Bureau report released in August, 36.5 million Americans live at or below the poverty line.

"The Catholic Campaign for Human Development invests in bottom-up, community empowerment strategies across the United States," Carr added in a Oct. 26 statement.

Funding for the grants CCHD

distributes annually comes from a nationwide church collection that takes place in dioceses each year, usually the weekend before Thanksgiving.

One-quarter of the local collection stays in the diocese and the rest is distributed nationally by the CCHD office in Washington.

Funded projects undergo a thorough review process and are selected based on need, without regard to religious affiliation.

In soliciting local grant applications, the Diocese of Charlotte CCHD advisory committee looks for programs and projects that seek to affect the root causes of poverty in the target community and involve participation of the people served in both the planning and decision-making of the sponsoring organization.

The programs and projects should indicate potential for institutional change by empowering the people and community involved and should promote the development of local leadership.

All proposals should conform to Catholic social teaching and must be postmarked by February 15, 2008.

*Mary Jane Bruton is CCHD director in the Diocese of Charlotte*

*Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.*

### TO APPLY

Contact Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3234 or e-mail [mjbruton@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mjbruton@charlottediocese.org). The application and a sample grant are available online at [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org) (click "CCHD & CRS").

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**Charlotte Region:** 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

**Western Region:** 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

**Piedmont-Triad:** 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Area Director: Diane Bullard (336) 727-0705

Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577

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# Healing the other victims

*International conference examines impact of abortion on men*

BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — While the impact of abortion on men is low on the cultural radar, there is overwhelming research, clinical experience and anecdotal evidence that men can be profoundly traumatized by the elective loss of a child whether they encouraged it, resisted it or learned of it only after the fact.

This was the view of speakers at the first international conference on men and abortion held in San Francisco Nov. 28-29.

Nearly 200 people from at least seven nations and 28 states gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral to hear the personal stories of men affected by abortion, reports on research on the topic, and presentations by counselors and therapists on the treatment of men suffering post-abortion grief.

Organized by the Milwaukee-based National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, the "Reclaiming Fatherhood: A Multifaceted Examination of Men Dealing With Abortion" conference was co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the national office of the Knights of Columbus.

Victoria Thorn, executive director of the post-abortion group, opened the event with a brief overview of how men, like women, experience hormonal and other changes during a partner's pregnancy, something that is little recognized.

"Men's bodies are busy with their own changes" during a mate's pregnancy, she said, "although the physiology of men during pregnancy is not yet taken seriously."

## Stories of suffering

The speakers included men who shared personal stories of how abortion had unexpectedly pulled the carpet out from under their lives.

Chris Aubert, 50, an attorney, traced

his life from days as a "very secular young guy" focused on "making money and in general becoming a yuppie" to his shocking realization during a 1994 ultrasound procedure for his pregnant wife "that that is a baby" in her womb.

It flooded over him, he said, that on two occasions prior to his marriage he had agreed with pregnant girlfriends to terminate their pregnancies.

"I realized that I had killed two of my own kids," he said. "It was almost like the hand of God reached down and touched me."

He recalled how after the first abortion in 1985 he had left a rose and a \$200 check for his then-girlfriend.

"But I felt no sorrow, no pain, no nothing," he said. "I had happily agreed to the abortion."

Similarly, he described a second abortion in 1991 with a different woman.

"I went to the clinic with her and sat in the waiting room reading a magazine for 20 or 30 minutes, then we went to lunch," he said.

It did not occur to him, Aubert said, "that in the next room my child was being dismembered and killed."

"Something in the depth of my belly," he said, "kept rising higher and higher" as the realization of the loss of two children sank in. By then a convert to Catholicism, Aubert said he told his wife, "There is something I have to tell you," and he revealed the past abortions.

He has since "jumped (with) both feet into the pro-life world."

He has established a Web site on his experiences and abortion, [www.chrisaubert.com](http://www.chrisaubert.com). (The site carries a warning to visitors that it includes links to graphic photos of abortions.)

He also has spoken "to groups of 50 to 1,000" about his convictions.

Mark Bradley Morrow, a licensed Christian counselor and Milwaukee radio personality, told participants that as a young man he had "within the space of 20 months conceived four children in my apartment and allowed my four babies to



CNS PHOTO BY TOBY MELVILLE, REUTERS

A man and child hold hands during an anti-abortion march in central London Oct. 27.

be aborted in four different states."

For 15 years, he said, he "did not feel a lot of pain or guilt," but then experienced "a meltdown one night when I thought of what I had done in the past."

His symptoms included "shame, anger, anxiety attacks and nightmares."

Worrying what people would think of him, he reluctantly shared his history with his wife, family and others who, he said, have been "kind, loving and supportive."

"Not all men are negatively impacted by abortion," Morrow said, "but many are, and they need your love, encouragement and compassion."

## After effects

Psychotherapist Vincent Rue and post-abortion therapist Catherine Coyle provided an overview of research on the effects of abortion on men.

Author of "Men and Abortion: A Path to Healing," Coyle underscored that research on how abortion affects men is in its infancy.

Nevertheless, she said, "qualitative studies" make it clear there can be significant consequences.

She, Rue and other conference speakers all reported that many men experience depression and guilt as well as grief, anxiety, powerlessness, anger, emotional turmoil, sexual dysfunction and other symptoms often associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Director of an independent research and treatment center, the Institute for Pregnancy Loss in Jacksonville, Fla., Rue has established a Web site that gathers information on people's experiences with abortion, [www.abortionresearch.net](http://www.abortionresearch.net).

One aspect of abortion in the United States mentioned frequently during the conference is that "men have no reproductive rights whatsoever," even if they are married to women considering an abortion, in the words of Rue.

Rue charged that most media as well as the preponderance of mental health organizations and professionals continue to promote abortion despite "the mental-health risks," such as "thoughts of suicide in post-abortion women being six times higher" than in the general population.

"There is zero awareness" of a connection between male suicide and abortion, he said. "It is not even a category."

The experts said substance abuse and risk-taking behaviors appear to be common among men associated with an abortion.

## ON THE WEB

The National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing: [www.noparh.org](http://www.noparh.org).  
A collection of peoples' experiences with abortion: [www.abortionresearch.net](http://www.abortionresearch.net).  
Chris Aubert's experiences and abortion: [www.chrisaubert.com](http://www.chrisaubert.com).

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"Let me put it very simply: Man needs God, otherwise he remains empty."

## People need God to have hope, pope says in new encyclical

HOPE, from page 1

The 76-page text explores the essential connection between faith and hope in early Christianity and addresses what it called a "crisis of Christian hope" in modern times.

It critiques philosophical rationalism and Marxism and offers brief but powerful profiles of Christian saints — ancient and modern — who embodied hope, even in the face of suffering.

The encyclical also includes a criticism of contemporary Christianity, saying it largely limits its attention to individual salvation instead of the wider world, and thus reduces the "horizon of its hope."

"As Christians we should never limit ourselves to asking: How can I save myself? We should also ask: What can I do in order that others may be saved?" it says.

It is the pope's second encyclical and follows his 2006 meditation on Christian love. He worked on the text over the summer during his stay in the Italian mountains and at his villa outside Rome.

### Science vs. salvation

The pope says the essential aspect of Christian hope is trust in eternal salvation brought by Christ.

In contrast with followers of mythology and pagan gods, early Christians had a future and could trust that their lives would not end in emptiness, he says.

Yet today the idea of "eternal life" frightens many people and strikes them as a monotonous or even unbearable existence, the pope states.

It is important, he says, to understand that eternity is "not an unending succession of days in the calendar, but something more like the supreme moment of satisfaction."

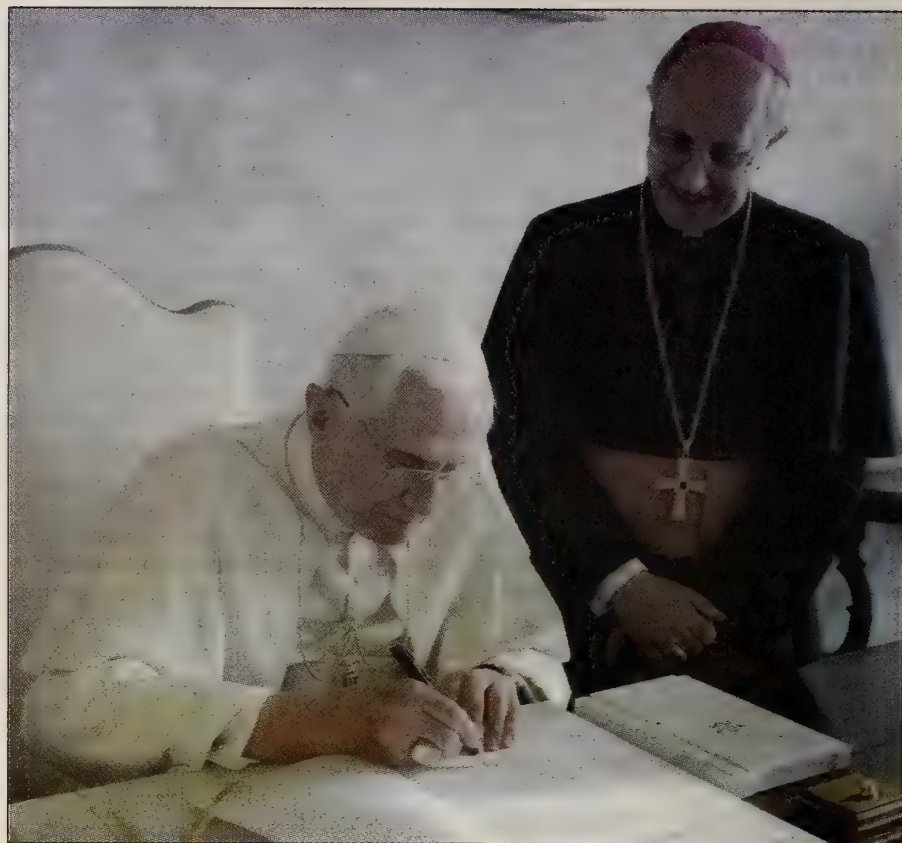
"It would be like plunging into the ocean of infinite love, a moment in which time — the before and after — no longer exists," he says.

This is how to understand the object of Christian hope, he says.

The encyclical's main section examines how the emphasis on reason and freedom — embodied in the French revolution and the rise of communism — sought to displace Christian hope.

Redemption was seen as possible through science and political programs, and religious faith was dismissed as irrelevant and relegated to a private sphere.

While praising Karl Marx for his great analytical skill, the pope said Marx made a fundamental error in forgetting that human freedom always includes "freedom for evil," which is not neutralized by social structures.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI signs his encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), at the Vatican Nov. 30. Archbishop Fernando Filoni, Vatican assistant secretary of state, is at right.

In the same way, the pope says, those who believe man can be "redeemed" through science and technological advances are mistaken.

"Science can contribute greatly to making the world and mankind more human. Yet it can also destroy mankind

and the world unless it is steered by forces that lie outside it," he says.

While Christians have a responsibility to work for justice, the hope of building a perfect world here and now is illusory, the pope says. Hopes for this world cannot by themselves sustain one's faith.

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## FROM THE COVER

## without hope.”

“We need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God,” he says.

**Prayer's purification**

The second half of the encyclical discusses how Christian hope can be learned and practiced — particularly through prayer, acceptance of suffering and anticipation of divine judgment.

The pope calls prayer a “school of hope,” and as an example he holds out the late Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Nguyen Van Thuan, who spent 13 years in prison, nine of them in solitary confinement.

In this “situation of seemingly utter hopelessness,” the fact that he could still listen and speak to God gave him an increasing power of hope, the pope said.

He emphasized that prayer should not be isolating and should not focus on superficial objectives. Nor can people pray against others, he said.

“To pray is not to step outside history and withdraw to our own private corner of happiness,” he said.

“When we pray properly we undergo a process of inner purification which opens us up to God and thus to our fellow human beings as well,” he said.

Suffering is part of human existence, and the sufferings of the innocent appear to be increasing today, the pope says.



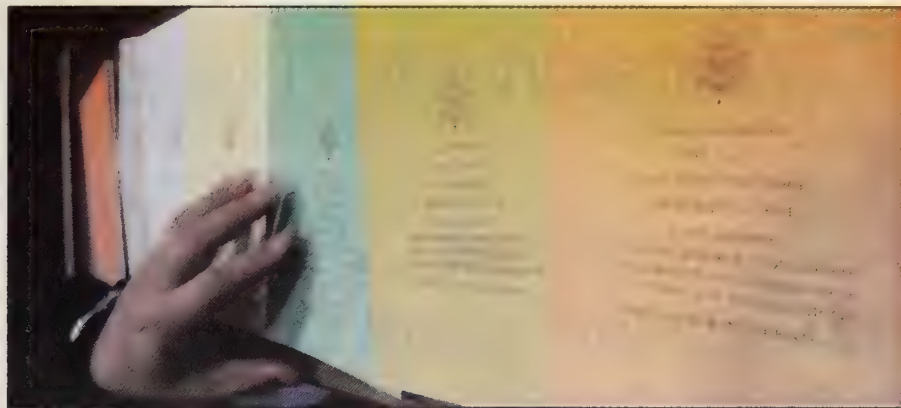
CNS PHOTO, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

The story of St. Josephine Bakhita, a 19th-century African slave, figures prominently in “Spe Salvi” (on Christian hope), the second encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI. He says she found the “great hope” that liberated and redeemed her.

He says Christians should do whatever they can to reduce pain and distress.

Yet suffering cannot be banished from this world, and trying to avoid anything that might involve hurt can lead to a life of emptiness, he says.

Instead, Christians are called to suffer with and for others, and their capacity to



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Copies of “Spe Salvi,” the new encyclical on Christian hope, are presented in various languages at the Vatican Nov. 30. Pope Benedict XVI worked on the text during the summer while he was away from the Vatican.

do so depends on their strength of inner hope, he says.

“The saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done before them, because they were brimming with great hope,” he states.

The pope recalled that in the not-too-distant past, many Christians would “offer up” to Christ their minor daily disappointments and hardships. Perhaps that practice should be revived, he says.

**Judgment and grace**

The pope says the idea of judgment — specifically the Last Judgment of the living and the dead — touches strongly on Christian hope because it promises justice.

“I am convinced that the question of justice constitutes the essential argument, or in any case the strongest argument, in favor of faith in eternal life,” he says.

It is impossible for the Christian to believe that the injustices of history will be the final word, he says.

The Last Judgment should not evoke terror, however, but a sense of responsibility, the pope says.

It is a moment of hope, because it combines God’s justice and God’s grace — but “grace does not cancel out justice,” he says.

“(Grace) is not a sponge which wipes everything away, so that whatever someone has done on earth ends up being of equal value,” he says. “Evildoers, in

the end, do not sit at table at the eternal banquet beside their victims without distinction, as though nothing had happened.”

The pope says the idea of purgatory, as a place of atonement for sins, also has a place in the logic of Christian hope.

Heaven is for the “utterly pure” and hell for those who have destroyed all desire for truth and love, but “neither case is normal in human life,” he says.

Thus, the souls of many departed may benefit from prayers, he says.

The pope begins and ends his encyclical with profiles of two women who exemplified Christian hope. The closing pages praise Mary for never losing hope, even in the darkness of Jesus’ crucifixion.

The encyclical opens by describing a similar sense of hope in a 19th-century African slave, St. Josephine Bakhita, who after being flogged, sold and resold, came to discover Christ.

With her conversion, St. Bakhita found the “great hope” that liberated and redeemed her, the pope says.

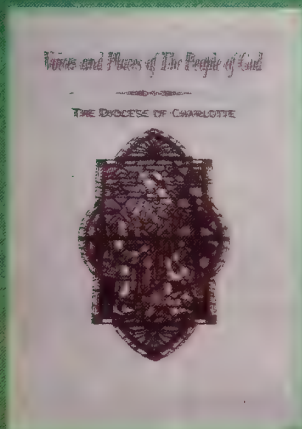
The pope emphasized that this was different from political liberation as a slave.

Christianity “did not bring a message of social revolution,” he says, but something totally different: an encounter with “a hope stronger than the sufferings of slavery, a hope which therefore transformed life and the world from within.”

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## ‘Spe Salvi’ at a glance

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here at a glance are the main points of Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, “Spe Salvi” (on Christian hope), released Nov. 30:

— Jesus Christ brought humanity the gift of a “trustworthy hope” in salvation and eternal life, a hope that is directly connected with faith.

— In the contemporary world, however, religious faith has been replaced with faith in progress and technology, provoking a “crisis of Christian hope.”

— Ideologies like Marxism tried to do without religion and create a perfect society through political structures. Instead, this led to the “greatest forms of cruelty,” proving that “a world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope.”

— Some have placed their hope in the mistaken belief that man could be redeemed through science — but science

can destroy the world unless it is guided by religious values.

— Experience shows that anyone who does not know God “is ultimately without hope,” the great hope that sustains life.

— Christianity cannot limit its attention to the individual and his salvation; Christianity’s transforming role includes the wider society.

— Prayer is an effective “school of hope,” as demonstrated by the saints through the centuries. Prayer should not isolate Christians, but make them more responsive to others.

— Suffering cannot be eliminated in this world but can be transformed by Christian hope. The measure of humanity, for individuals and society, lies in compassion for the suffering.

— The prospect of divine judgment also offers hope, because it promises God’s grace and justice.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Authors present old treasures, new insights about Christmas

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Christmas thoughts from Truman Capote and St. Augustine might seem like a strange combination.

However "A Family Christmas," selected and introduced by Caroline Kennedy, uses these writers and many others to create an eclectic but compelling treasury of reflections and ideas about Christmas.

Kennedy begins her book with an endearing letter she wrote to Santa Claus in 1962. This is followed by a well-informed introduction that includes information on the history of Christmas. And she explains, rather poignantly, why this collection can be a treasure for families.

"The liturgy and literature teach us that Christmas encompasses the miraculous and the tragic, the profound and the ridiculous, and always represents the connection to something larger than ourselves.

"If we are open to the gifts of understanding, hope and faith in others and in God, the spirit of Christmas can help make real the way we want to live our lives."

The book truly is a smorgasbord of Christmas writings. It includes song lyrics, poetry, essays and even a Supreme Court decision regarding the display of a Christmas creche in Pawtucket, R.I.

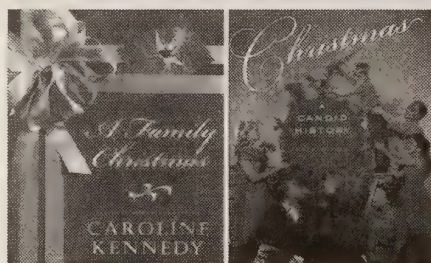
This hardcover collection also includes a ribbon bookmark so that readers can mark their place or note a favorite spot.

Various themes are marked as "sort of" chapters. One is dedicated to Santa while another focuses on manger scenes.

A lovely chapter is called "Christmas in Wartime" and seems appropriate for this holiday season.

Throughout the book it is obvious that Kennedy loves Christmas and the written word. She has selected many great works to acknowledge a great feast.

"Christmas: A Candid History" by Bruce David Forbes is a very readable and enjoyable book that chronicles the



history of Christmas.

The author "tells the story of Christmas — from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond."

It is a scholarly work that includes 25 pages of notes and an annotated bibliography. Yet the author has a style that makes learning about this holiday interesting and even a little fun.

He also offers some profound thoughts about religious celebrations and their meanings. For example, when discussing Christmas in relationship to light, he offers a great reflection.

He writes, "In a way, the approach of winter is a little like walking into death, hoping we will emerge on the other side."

His study of the Christmas narratives in the Gospels of Luke and Mark also offers a lot of food for thought. And the book is chock-full of historical information about Christmas.

Many of these facts should make the reader look at the holiday with new eyes. If one thinks of an old-fashioned New England Christmas, one also should be reminded that Christmas was outlawed in the colonies for many years.

Forbes' book also makes one take a serious look at how Christmas is celebrated today and how much of that is affected by marketing strategies and advertising.

This book has a great, almost comical cover. However, within the pages is a serious study on how and why people celebrate on Dec. 25.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC 16, 2007

Dec. 16, Third Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
Psalm 146:6-10
- 2) James 5:7-10  
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

### Good things come to those who wait, endure

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend Michael and his family endured a long, trying period of transition several years ago that parallels the admonition in this week's readings to wait patiently as the Lord accomplishes his purposes.

Michael had taken a job teaching at the University of Oklahoma's College of Law. But during his four years in that job, he commuted between Norman and Austin, Tex., where his wife and four children remained until they could finalize the family move.

Most weekends, he'd make the 400-mile trek home, only to reverse his path on Sunday for a long, lonely ride back to Oklahoma. It was a hard time for Michael, his wife Mara and their children.

In James 5, the writer tells the Christian community to be patient until the coming of the Lord:

"See how the farmer waits the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm."

The psalm points to the hope we

have because it is hope in the Lord, "who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed."

These really are Advent readings, aren't they? They are all about waiting, but waiting with hope and confidence in the One who holds the future, in the One who is coming.

Also, Jesus points to the somewhat amazing nature of God's promises to those who come into the kingdom which he is initiating when he says in Matthew 11:

"I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Michael's family trial didn't last forever. There was a fruition.

They found Norman to be a great place to raise their four quite talented children. They became deeply involved in the faith communities there.

Michael's teaching evolved into a tenured chair at the OU College of Law, with the budget to do things like hold a national conference on Catholic perspectives on American Law at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Mara's writing continued to prosper, and they co-wrote a book on Catholic pilgrimages.

Advent is a time of waiting, even sometimes of enduring, but Christmas comes. The birth of the Lord comes in this season of December, and it comes in our lives. Wait for it with hope.

#### Questions:

Are you in a time of waiting, of hoping for the Lord's coming into trying circumstances? Are there steps you can take for yourself, or, realistically, is prayer (and patience) all you can do at this point?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 9-15

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; **Monday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (St. Damascus 1)**, Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Lucy)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (St. John of the Cross)**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday)**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9-13.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 16-22

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Song of Songs 2:8-14, Luke 1:39-45; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56.

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# Tailgating nuns



CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

Former Denver Bronco football player Claudie Minor greets Sister Marie deLourdes Falk during the fifth annual tailgate party with nuns at Exempla St. Joseph Hospital in Denver Dec. 2.

More than 20 former Broncos were in attendance to help the Sisters of Charity cheer on their Broncos, who lost to Oakland 34-20.

The nuns, who live at the hospital, were selected by the Denver football team to be featured in a series of commercials promoting the NFL team. They will be shown on television and broadcast at games.

# 'Golden Compass' shows both good and bad

Entertaining film hints at both anti- and pro-Catholic teaching

BY HARRY FORBES  
AND JOHN MULDERIG  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Hollywood history is rife with examples of literary works that by dint of problematic sexual, violent or religious content have been softened to varying degrees to mollify public sensibilities.

So it appears to be with "The Golden Compass" (New Line) which, we'll say right at the start, is a lavish, well-acted and fast-paced adaptation of the first volume of Philip Pullman's much-awarded trilogy, "His Dark Materials."

The film has already caused some concern in Catholic circles because of the author's professed atheism, and the more overt issue of the novels' negative portrayal of his (very much fictionalized) church, a stand-in for all organized religion.

The good news is that the first book's explicit references to this church have been completely excised with only the term Magisterium retained.

The choice is still a bit unfortunate as the word refers so specifically to the church's teaching authority. Yet the film's only clue that the Magisterium is a religious body comes in the form of the icons which decorate one of their headquarters. Most moviegoers with no foreknowledge of the books or Pullman's personal belief system will scarcely be aware of religious connotations, and can approach the movie as a pure fantasy-adventure.

This is not the blatant real-world anti-Catholicism of, say, the recent "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" or "The Da Vinci Code." Religious elements, as such, are practically nil.

The narrative itself charts the adventures of spunky 12-year-old Lyra (Dakota Blue Richards), an orphan who leaves Oxford's Jordan College to become apprentice to a glamorous scholar, Mrs. Coulter (Nicole Kidman).

She's allowed to leave equipped with the titular compass — a truth meter that Lyra is among the privileged few to know how to interpret. Once in Mrs. Coulter's care, Lyra begins to surmise that the woman's motives are far from pure, and she escapes.

Inspired by her Arctic-exploring-uncle Lord Asriel (Daniel Craig) who, to the consternation of the Magisterium, is about to make some discoveries about the mysterious substance called Dust — Lyra journeys northward. She hopes to rescue her young friend Roger, who has been kidnapped by the Magisterium.

Lyra picks up several allies along the way, including a great polar bear named Iorek Byrnison (voice of Ian McKellen).

Even if Pullman's fanciful universe has a patchwork feel, with elements culled from other fantasy-adventure stories — most especially "The Chronicles of Narnia" (a work Pullman disdains) — there's hardly a dull moment, and the effects are beautifully realized, including the anthropomorphized creatures like

the polar bears whose climactic fight is superbly done.

Richards makes an appealingly no-nonsense heroine, and Kidman makes a glamorous and chilling villain. Christopher Lee, Tom Courtenay and Derek Jacobi round out a distinguished cast, with excellent voice work from McKellen and others (e.g. Kathy Bates and Kristin Scott Thomas).

Whatever author Pullman's putative motives in writing the story, writer-director Chris Weitz's film, taken purely on its own cinematic terms, can be viewed as an exciting adventure story with, at its core, a traditional struggle between good and evil, and a generalized rejection of authoritarianism.

To the extent, moreover, that Lyra and her allies are taking a stand on behalf of free will in opposition to the coercive force of a dictatorship, they are of course acting entirely in harmony with Catholic teaching.

The heroism and self-sacrifice that they demonstrate provide appropriate moral lessons for viewers.

There is, admittedly, a spirit of rebellion and stark individualism pervading the story. Lyra is continually drawn to characters who reject authority in favor of doing as they please.

Equally, only by defying the powers that be, can a scientist like Lord Asriel achieve progress. Pullman is perhaps drawing parallels to the Catholic Church's restrictive stance towards the early alchemists and, later, Galileo.

The script also makes use of some of the occult concepts found in the books, such as the diabolically named "daemons" — animal companions to each person, identified as their human counterpart's visible soul.

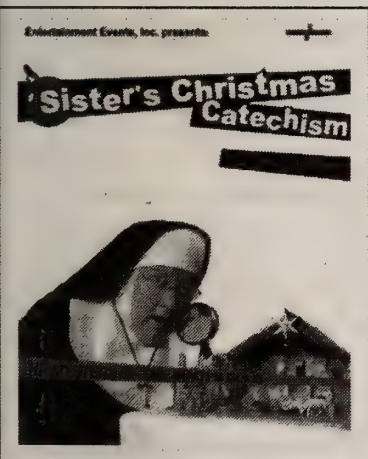
Is Pullman trying to undermine anyone's belief in God? Leaving the books aside, the movie's script can reasonably be interpreted in the broadest sense as an appeal against the abuse of political power.

Will seeing this film inspire teens to read the books, which many have found problematic? Rather than banning the movie or books, parents might instead take the opportunity to talk through any thorny philosophical issues with their teens.

The religious themes of the later books may be more prominent in the follow-up films which Weitz has vowed will be less watered down. For now, this film — altered, as it is, from its source material — rates as intelligent and well-crafted entertainment.

The film contains intense but bloodless fantasy violence, anti-clerical subtext, standard genre occult elements, a character born out of wedlock and a whiskey-guzzling bear. The USCCB Office of Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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# Hope offered amid Nicaragua's poverty

POVERTY, from page 1

and bits of recyclables.

A city garbage truck drives into the dump as men run and jump on, riding along until it stops. They want to be the first to use their makeshift picks and bare hands to sift through the fresh load of refuse.

Seventeen-year-old Edwind has been coming to La Chureca every day for three years. He works at the dump 6 a.m.-5 p.m., earning \$3 per day.

Nearly one-half of Nicaragua's population of 5.5 million lives on less than \$1 per day. It is one of the poorest countries in the Americas.

Yet, in the midst of the poverty, religious groups and international aid agencies offer hope.

When Msgr. Louis Pena first started his ministry at the dump 11 years ago, he saw hundreds of children picking through the garbage. He decided to take a multi-faceted approach — providing health care, feeding programs and education.

Through his efforts, he has helped many children get out of the dump. For the past six years the John Cordisco Education and Feeding Center has provided 350 children a day with education programs and nutritious lunches.

Now when he visits the dump he sees only a few dozen children. He speaks with pride about one of the first children

helped by the center who graduated from high school last year.

At San Jose Protector orphanage outside Managua, the Colombia-based Sisters of the Annunciation provide food, housing, clothing, education and medical services to girls ages 1-15. Currently about 35 girls come from situations of abuse, poverty and abandonment.

"The nuns exemplify the Scriptures. They have incredible zeal; you can tell that Christ is really in their hearts," said Angel Aloma, executive director for Food for the Poor Inc.

"Orphanages do not have a negative connotation" in Nicaragua, said Aloma. "Here orphanages are a place of joy and happiness."

Nicaragua is the third poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and the CIA's World Factbook claims that it has one of the greatest inequities in income distribution in the world, with 45 percent of total income being earned by just 10 percent of the population.

Poor countries do not have the social safety nets; when the poor in Nicaragua fall, they hit the ground hard.

The Christmas earthquake of 1972 leveled 90 percent of Managua and killed more than 10,000 people. Much of the relief aid channeled to the country flowed into the pockets of the family and friends of then-ruler Anastasio Somoza.

When Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998, killing 2,400 people, almost one-fifth of Nicaragua's population was left homeless.

Northwest of Managua, the colonial



CNS PHOTO BY GREG TARCZYNSKI

Men and children comb through a fresh load of garbage at a garbage dump in Managua, Nicaragua, Aug. 2.

city of Leon has long been viewed as the intellectual center of Nicaragua. But at a restaurant near the beautiful Cathedral of the Assumption, children beg for scraps from the plates of visitors.

Since 2004, Food for the Poor has worked with the American-Nicaraguan Foundation to build homes in Leon for families with the greatest need.

Originally the plan was to build 35 homes, but by 2007 the groups had built more than 1,900 homes, as well as a school and a community center.

Continuing northwest is the town of Chinandega. Nelson Rodriguez, a policeman, lives in a house made from corrugated scrap metal, a one-room squatter's shack he shares with his wife and two children.

With no windows or adequate ventilation these shacks turn into

hothouses in the tropical summer sun. There is no running water and no sewage disposal. There is no security. At any moment the landowner might arrive with a bulldozer and wipe out the entire community.

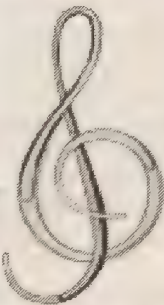
It is so hot in Leorgina Centeno's shack that it is hard to tell her tears from the sweat on her face as she holds her two children.

"I am thankful for God's grace that moves the hearts of others to help the needy," she said.

The two families will soon be moving into new houses, part of a program funded by Food for the Poor.

"A home is the first step," said Aloma. "When they get a home they have the security to leave the kids with grandparents, and the possessions are safe so both parents can seek work."

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic director of music ministry. The candidate must have knowledge and experience with traditional and contemporary Catholic Music/Liturgy. Master's Degree in Music is preferred; minimum of BA in Music required. For more information, see our website at [www.stpaulcc.org](http://www.stpaulcc.org). Send resume and references to [sbames@stpaulcc.org](mailto:sbames@stpaulcc.org). Resumes will be accepted until December 30, 2007 or until the position is filled.

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## Director of Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

The Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach is seeking a director of youth and young adult faith formation to lead and coordinate catechetical formation for high school and junior high school youth and to coordinate a growing young adult ministry. Ministry with high school youth includes a peer-led, adult-guided, Spirit-filled program using the guidelines of RENEWING THE VISION. This minister will be an integral part of the Christian Formation Staff working with a Youth Ministry team and with supervision from the director and the pastor. Qualifications include college degree, experience working with youth and a parish staff, and openness to continuing education and formation. Salary commensurate with Diocesan guidelines and experience. The position is open now. Contact Father James E. Parke, 4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia at 757-495-1886.

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Reliving Thanksgiving

Illuminating Advent



COURTESY PHOTO


Kindergarten and first-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro take part in a re-enactment of the first Thanksgiving feast Nov. 20. Parents of students in the four classes prepared a variety of foods for the children to taste. Students prepared their own placemats, table decorations and hats. They also studied about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and the customs of the early settlers. Pictured (from left): Charlotte Crater, Joseph Bruno and Olivia Kennedy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh-grader Jack Rosemond lights the first candles of each class's Advent wreaths at St. Michael School in Gastonia Dec. 3. Students and staff gathered in the cafeteria as part of the school's advent celebration, which included Bible readings, prayer and song.

Principal Joseph Puceta explained the meaning of Advent, the season that opens the church's liturgical year. It begins with liturgical observances on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve when the liturgical observance of Christmas begins.



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Preparing for Christmas



COURTESY PHOTO

Paula Cancro, pre-kindergarten teacher, and Addy Ann Edwards, assistant, are pictured with the pre-kindergarten class at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Nov. 27. The students made Advent wreaths to prepare for the Christmas season. The wreaths were blessed by Conventual Franciscan Father Conal McHugh, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy Church, and taken home with a special prayer to be shared with the students' families throughout Advent.

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NEWS & HERALD



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Christmas and the divinity of Christ

*Through Scripture, pope searches 'for the face of the Lord'*

Every Christmas we have the opportunity to reaffirm our faith in the Lord. The secularization of the Christmas holiday has weakened the faith of many.

However, to the rescue comes Pope Benedict XVI with his new book, "Jesus of Nazareth." It is a beautifully written defense of the divinity of Jesus.

The pope makes the Incarnation the central issue in every part of the Gospel. The joy of the Christmas season is based on the belief that God came to us in the form of man:

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost" (Lk 19:10). "For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven. ... He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man" (The Nicene Creed).

Modern secular Scripture scholars have challenged this mystery for decades, treating the texts solely as literary works and discarding the faith perspective in their interpretations.

They distinguish between the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith, saying that the Scriptures have often reflected later influences coming from the faith of the Gospel writers, not from actual firsthand witness.

Demythologizing the Scriptures is a legitimate study, but it goes off track when it contradicts the truths of revelation.

In his book, Pope Benedict demonstrates the limitations of the historical-critical method of interpreting Scripture and insists that there is a need for a fuller, more integrated theological perspective in order to supplement the exegeses.

Pope Benedict XVI sees no difference between the Christ of faith and the historical person of Jesus. In unifying the two he presents a simple, integrated view of the person of Jesus, and even refers to the kingdom of God as Jesus Christ personified.

The Holy Father says, "This book is not meant to be a pronouncement of the magisterium. ... It is my personal search 'for the face of the Lord.'"

One of my favorite passages is when Pope Benedict cites the Lord's disagreements with the authorities of the time. Here Jesus uses the expression "I am," which means "Yahweh."

It was a bold assertion of his mission and his divinity, and the Pharisees saw it as such. They considered it pure blasphemy and became infuriated. Shortly afterward they began planning Jesus' crucifixion.

Pope Benedict also shows how Jesus was called the Logos (the Word) in St. John's Gospel:

"In the beginning was the Word, and

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (1:1,14).

This means that God is fully manifested and glorified in the person of the historical Jesus, right from his infancy in Bethlehem.

The importance of Pope Benedict's book cannot be overestimated. It restores the simplicity of the Christmas story to its traditional place in the history of Christianity.

"Jesus of Nazareth" already has its opponents. Father Joseph S. O'Leary, an English literature teacher at Sophia University in Tokyo, said this about the book's impact:

"A whole century of New Testament scholarship will now have to be radically corrected, and largely jettisoned" (National Catholic Reporter, 9/27/07).

Doctrinal teachings about the divinity of Jesus in the fourth century were all based on the faith of the primitive Christian community expressed in the New Testament. The message has always been the same and quite simple; namely, we are destined for eternal life.

To get there we all need to acknowledge our dependence upon Jesus as Lord, who said, "Without me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

## God's gift of humor

*Being joyful helps one to be kind, to endure*

I was saddened recently to learn that my former classmate, Father David Cortesi of the Archdioceses of Chicago, had died.

It was only a year ago when we gathered for our high school reunion and Dave was his old humorous self. When I asked him how he was doing, he laughed, "I have diabetes and am falling apart just like everyone else our age."

Dave had a gift of lightening the anxiety we often experienced during our studies. It wasn't that he took life lightly; rather, he knew how to lighten it up by revealing its oddities.

Frequently he would tickle our funny bone by noting the eccentricities of our most feared professors or exposing the laughable side of a serious issue.

As I reflected on Dave's gift, I couldn't help but think of the other David Cortesi in life who keep us sane when everything seems insane and chaotic. They bless us with the virtue of humor and with the kindness it spawns.

Kindness involves being well-disposed toward our neighbors, ourselves and the world. It's the opposite of being ill-disposed, gloomy, negative and fearful.

Many a time Dave's humor was the epitome of kindness, enabling us to rise above a gloomy situation and not get bent out of shape.

We don't give much thought to the worth of people like Dave and the humor they create. The theologian Father Romano Guardini, however, reminds us they are extremely important for maintaining our kindness.

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



"One thing is required of kindness," Father Guardini writes, "something of which we rarely speak — a sense of humor. It helps us to endure things more easily. Indeed, we could hardly get along without it."

"The person who sees (someone) only seriously, only morally or pedagogically cannot endure him (or her) for any length of time. We must have an eye for the oddity of existence."

"Everything human has something comic about it. The more pompously a (person) acts, the greater is the comic element."

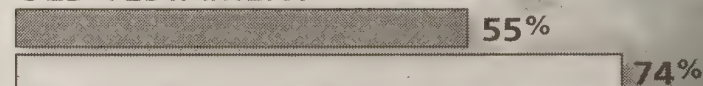
"A sense of humor means that we take (a person) seriously and strive to help him (or her), but suddenly see how odd he (or she) is, and laugh, even though it be only inwardly. A friendly laugh at the oddity of all human affairs — that is humor. It helps us to be kind for after a good laugh it is easier to be serious again."

Dave taught us the art of having an eye for the oddity of existence. Ultimately people like Dave are gifts from God who loves us and desires that we be joyful and have a good laugh.

## Word of God

Adults who say "all" or "most" of the following represent the word of God.

### OLD TESTAMENT



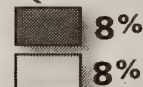
### NEW TESTAMENT



### TORAH (Jewish texts)



### QURAN (Muslim texts)



■ Catholics  
□ Protestants

Online poll conducted among 2,455 adults within the U.S. Nov. 7-13. The sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel. No estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

Source: Harris Interactive

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# Breakfast with Santa

*Christmas events should be focused on Christ*

Breakfast with Santa. What is it with having breakfast with Santa?  
This year our parish will sponsor three or four breakfasts with that merry giver of gifts and promoter of sales, Santa Claus.  
We used to have Communion breakfasts — breakfast with Jesus. Now we have breakfast with Santa.

Don't get me wrong. I am 100 percent in favor of helping needy children, especially at Christmas. I want their celebration of Christmas to be joyful.

Our parish always participates in the community "giving tree." We buy gifts for more than 200 needy children in our community, more than any other church in our county.

But, like many parishes, we have had an increasing emphasis on "breakfast with Santa" around Christmas.

We sponsor one for the children born through the local crisis-pregnancy center. We have another one for Girl Scouts.

This year we even hosted a breakfast with Santa for the local motorcycle clubs. There were 150 motorcycles in the parking lot. Santa arrived on a red motorcycle. Cool.

Even the Knights of Columbus sponsor a breakfast with Santa. They give gifts to children of Knights.

So what is my problem with all of this breakfasting with Santa? Three

things bother me.  
First, we are promoting Santa and forgetting Jesus in all of this. Our children come away thinking that Christmas is about Santa Claus and getting stuff.

We cannot lament the fact that Christ is not in Christmas if the churches don't even keep him there.

Above all, it seems to me the Knights of Columbus should be sensitive to this. After all, they are the ones who have the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. How can we expect Wal-Mart to keep Christ in Christmas if we don't?

Second, we are promoting materialism as the spirit of Christmas.

Young people are taught that Christmas is about getting stuff. The high point of these breakfasts is a merry romp through piles of gifts.

While most of them who come to these events are needy, some are just middle class children who already receive too much stuff for Christmas.

Third, all this breakfasting with Santa stretches out the Christmas season. Our celebrations begin earlier every year.

The bikers' breakfast with Santa was on Nov. 17 this year. Since when does the Christmas season begin before Thanksgiving?

I've wondered what to do about this phenomenon of breakfast with Santa. I raised it with our pastoral council. Some

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



people thought I was the "Grinch" who stole Christmas. Others agreed with me.

In reflecting, I've come up with three guidelines for children's Christmas gift-giving celebrations in our parish:

First, Christmas celebrations must be in the Christmas season. By that I mean between the feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6) and Epiphany (Jan. 6).

One month is plenty. I want no dragging Christmas into November just because the stores already have their decorations up.

Second, gift-giving events must be focused on the needy, not the greedy. We should be inviting children who otherwise would not be receiving gifts.

We have to be delicate in how we do this. I prefer anonymous giving.

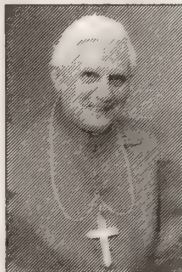
Third, every Christmas event for children must have some reference to the birth of Jesus. A manger scene should be set up. There must be a religious Christmas carol sung (not Jingle Bells). There must be a prayer said by everyone there.

Maybe we should even require that St. Nick come dressed as a bishop!

# Pope says Advent is reminder that God will never abandon his children

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Advent is a time for prayer and trust that God will never abandon his children, even during turbulent times, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

"The Lord will fight to defend you," he said, quoting St. Chromatius. "It is God who brings victory in the end."

During his Dec. 5 general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, the pope continued a series of talks on writers of the early church with a catechesis on St. Chromatius, the fourth-century bishop of Aquileia in northern Italy.

The bishop stayed close to his flock and "opened their hearts to trust in God who never abandons his children" even during times of trouble and insecurity, the pope said.

The Lord will protect his loved ones not because of their merits, but because he is a loving and merciful God, he said.

The pope told some 8,000 pilgrims gathered in the hall that the fourth-century saint teaches that "Advent is a time of prayer" and a time to get in touch with God.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on the writers of the early church, we now turn to St. Chromatius, the bishop of Aquileia in northern Italy.

At the end of the fourth century, the church in Aquileia played a significant role in the struggle against Arianism, thanks to the celebrated synod held there.

Born of a devout Christian family, Chromatius became a priest, attended the synod as an expert and was then ordained bishop of Aquileia. He was a zealous pastor, governing his enormous diocese during the turbulent time of the invasions of the Goths and the Huns.

Chromatius assisted St. Jerome in the preparation of the Vulgate and left behind a number of sermons and a series of tracts on the Gospel of Matthew.

His teaching emphasized the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, the work of the Holy Spirit, the divinity and integral humanity of Christ, the dignity of the Virgin Mary and the unity of the Church.

In a lively Latin, filled with striking imagery, he proclaimed the truths of the faith, sustained his flock in hope amid the uncertainties of the times and, above all, taught them to pray with confidence in the Lord's victory over evil and his unfailing mercy toward his holy ones.

# The value of saying 'no' in a can-do culture

*Blocking scientific 'progress' can be necessary, commendable*

A benefit of being in business for a long time is the ability to see things through the perspective of 2,000 years.

The recent announcement that human skin cells can be made to function as effectively as embryonic stem cells is a case in point, an increasingly rare situation when a scientific discovery appears to make everyone happy.

Separate studies from teams at the University of Wisconsin and in Japan reported results that negate the need to destroy human embryos in order to acquire stem cells.

"The induced cells do all the things embryonic stem cells do," said James Thompson, the Wisconsin researcher.

He isolated the first embryonic stem cells in 1998.

"It is going to completely change the field," he said.

The widespread acclaim that greeted the announcement emphasized the breakthrough of providing scientific benefit without the ethical question of destroying human life to obtain the embryonic cells.

The Catholic Church opposes the direct destruction of innocent human life for any purpose, including research involving harvesting stem cells from a living human embryo.

Despite the temptation for a strong "I told you so," this is more a time for an

appreciation of caution and principles. It is good to have boundary-keepers, an organization with principles saying "no" in a can-do culture.

In the last few years as science did more and more work with stem cells, the church spoke out against the use of embryonic cells. It urged the alternatives of adult cells, defining what is permissible and not permissible.

One of the few less-than-positive comments on the new breakthrough came in a newspaper editorial that urged embryonic stem-cell research continue along with the new skin cell technique.

"The potential benefits for stem-cell research's impact on millions of lives are too important to let one avenue of research forestall or trump the other," said the Seattle Times as if it were speaking of a difference of opinion over Beta or VHS in video recorders.

"The possible benefits for treating a variety of illnesses outweigh the political and religious concerns that for too long have stymied research in the U.S.," it said.

Note the words "political and religious concerns." Many would object to progress being blocked by politics and religion. But the correct words are "moral and ethical concerns."

It has been less than a decade since Thompson, the Wisconsin researcher, first isolated embryonic stem cells. It

## Extra! Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



is not easy to make the case for human life when it is evident only with a microscope.

But skin cell development vindicates the perseverance of church.

"The choice is not between science and ethics, but between science that is ethically responsible and science that is not," the U.S. bishops have said.

The bishops' Committee on Science and Human Values put it well in a statement:

"The church must know and respond to the spirit of scientific humanism in contemporary U.S. culture, and must bring Catholic moral values to bear on issues to which advances and science and technology give rise."

Standing in the way of scientific progress — as history has often shown us — can be a necessary and commendable action.

With apologies to a former defense secretary, "We don't know what we don't know yet." That makes it important to have guidance in opening doors and boxes.

Some criticism of halting embryonic stem-cell research said it "directly conflicts with science's need to advance."

Science's need to advance, however, must be instructed by morality and ethics.





CNS PHOTO BY CROSIERS

A statue of Mary is seen in an undated photo in the grotto at Lourdes, France, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Catholics can receive a plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, said U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with indulgences and matters of conscience.

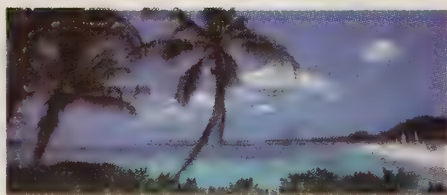
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# To encourage renewed holiness

## Pope OKs plenary indulgence for Lourdes' 150th anniversary

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — To mark the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes, France, Pope Benedict XVI authorized a special indulgence to encourage renewed holiness.

Catholics can receive a plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, said U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with indulgences and matters of conscience.

As Christians strive to become more holy, they can look to Mary who "calls the faithful to her Son and his sacrifice and to the love of the Father," said the cardinal, quoting from "Lumen Gentium," the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

The Vatican published the cardinal's statement announcing the indulgence and outlining the requirements for receiving it Dec. 5.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. A plenary indulgence is the remission of all punishment.

Cardinal Stafford said the indulgence can also be applied to the souls of the faithful in purgatory.

Catholics can receive the indulgence during two time frames.

Pilgrims visiting the Massabielle grotto, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette, can receive the indulgence during the Lourdes jubilee year, which runs from Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, until Dec. 8, 2008.

Pilgrims who visit any public sanctuary, shrine or other worthy place dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes may receive the indulgence Feb. 2-11.

Feb. 11 is the day the first of 18 apparitions occurred and is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Feb. 2 is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Cardinal Stafford said that to obtain the special indulgence one must fulfill the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences; these include the person going to confession within a reasonably short period of time, receiving the Eucharist and praying for the intentions of the pope, all in a spirit of total detachment from the attraction of sin.

Those who make a pilgrimage to Lourdes must visit the following sites, preferably in this order:

- The parish where St. Bernadette was baptized.
- The Soubirous family home.
- The Massabielle grotto.
- The chapel where St. Bernadette received her first Communion.

At each location the faithful should end their meditation by praying the Lord's Prayer, the creed and the special jubilee prayer or a prayer to Mary.

Those visiting a holy place dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes in another part of the world Feb. 2-11 also should pray the Lord's Prayer, the creed and the special jubilee prayer or a prayer to Mary.

Catholics who cannot visit Lourdes or join a communal service dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes because of illness or other serious reason could still earn the indulgence "in their own home or wherever they are" Feb. 2-11, Cardinal Stafford said.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Gift of 'Spe Salvi';  
entitlement and ingratitude  
of today's youth

| PAGES 14-15

## Looking for Kyle

*Family, friends  
persevere in search  
for missing Charlotte  
Catholic grad*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Just over a month ago, Kyle Fleischmann, a 2002 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, walked out of a bar in uptown Charlotte and disappeared.

He has not been seen nor heard from since, despite a massive search effort by his family, friends and hundreds of volunteers.

Fleischmann was recorded on security cameras leaving Buckhead Saloon Nov. 9, at about 2:20 a.m. About an hour later, two phone calls were made from his cell phone, one to his roommate and another to his best friend, Daniel Scagnelli, but the caller did not leave any

See SEARCH, page 12

## Worshiping at the altar of the Lord



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the new altar at St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon Dec. 7. The new ambo, altar and high altar were carved of Carrara marble in Italy and shipped in pieces to Tryon, where they were assembled.

*Bishop Jugis blesses  
new altars in Tryon*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

TRYON — Catholics in the small parish of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon now worship at a beautiful marble altar, one which has become a tourist attraction and "magnet for prayer."

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the new ambo, altar and high altar, which houses the tabernacle, Dec. 7. The relics of three saints — St. Fortunatus, St. Paulina and an unidentified saint — were sealed in the altar during the Mass. A relic of St. John the Baptist is housed in the church.

The pieces are made of Carrara marble imported from Italy.

See ALTAR, page 4

## From waves to war

*Catholics: Sri Lankan  
conflict increases,  
religious tension decreases*

BY PAUL JEFFREY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Three years after a tsunami devastated this already troubled island nation, Catholic assistance with reconstruction has brought improved relations between Christians and Sri Lanka's other religious communities, said a Sri Lankan church leader.

"There is less religious

See CONFLICT, page 7

## Getting the truth back on course

*Critics debate merits of 'The Golden Compass' movie*

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The movie "The Golden Compass" has prompted a blizzard of words assailing the movie and the books on which it is based, as well as defenses of the film.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Dec. 10 it was withdrawing a review of "The Golden Compass" prepared by its New

York-based Office for Film & Broadcasting and originally posted on the USCCB and Catholic News Service Web sites Nov. 29.

The USCCB gave no reason for its decision, although the review itself had received a considerable amount of criticism among people distrustful of the anti-

See COMPASS, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY NEW LINE

Nicole Kidman and Dakota Blue Richards star in "The Golden Compass." The film makes no direct references to the Catholic Church, but critics say it promotes atheism.

## \*Youths in Action

*Kids collect, donate to needy  
during holiday season*

| PAGE 5

## Culture Watch

*Books for kids at Christmas;  
pope featured in documentary*

| PAGES 10-11

## 'Milk powder' power

*Bethlehem grotto brings  
hope, sometimes babies*

| PAGE 16

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS



CNS PHOTO BY JACLYN TWIDWELL, CATHOLIC VOICE

Lisa Victoria Wiemers, accompanied by her daughter, Bella, takes a moment to reflect near the altar of St. John Church at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., during a prayer service Dec. 6. The service was held to remember nine people, including the shooter, who died in the Westroads Mall shooting Dec. 5. Wiemers worked at the Von Maur department store last Christmas and knew four of the victims. Five others were wounded.

## God remains source of comfort in shooting tragedy, Omaha priest says

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — In a time of great sadness and pain, God remains present as a source of comfort, an Omaha priest said in his homily at a Dec. 6 prayer service for the victims of shootings the day before at one of the city's shopping malls.

"We turn to God, not because God will reveal answers to all of our questions, but because God is faithful to his promise: to walk at our side in times of sorrow, even as he does in times of joy," Father Harry Buse, pastor at St. Leo Church in Omaha, told a capacity crowd of family, friends and co-workers of the victims.

St. Leo Church is located just blocks from Westroads Mall where 19-year-old Robert Hawkins entered the Von Maur department store Dec. 5 around 1:30 p.m. with an AK-47 assault rifle and randomly shot and killed eight and wounded five others before turning the gun on himself.

On the night of the shootings, a candlelight vigil at St. John's Church on the campus of Jesuit-run Creighton University was the first public gathering. A midday prayer service for the victims and shooter was held at the campus church Dec. 6.

The St. Leo Church service followed that evening; it was the home parish of one of the victims, 53-year-old Dianne Trent.

Victim Janet Jorgensen, 66, was a Von Maur employee and a member of St. James Church in Omaha. Employee Angie Schuster, 36, was a parishioner of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha.

The other deceased include two store customers and three store employees.

At the St. John Church's service, Jesuit Father Roc O'Connor, rector of the Jesuit community at Creighton, asked the 800 people gathered to be "men and

women for others" in the face of tragedy.

"The men and women of Creighton University have always been here for each other," he said. "Today is no different and that makes us a special community."

Victim John McDonald, 65, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was a graduate of Creighton University, as is one of the wounded shoppers, 34-year-old Jeff Schaffart.

Father Buse went to Westroads Mall shortly after the shootings to offer pastoral assistance.

"Certainly these tragedies remind us of the brokenness of the human condition, of the fact that sin is part of our lives as humans," Father Buse said. "But it also reminds us to remember that Jesus rises above all of that."

While mourning the loss of the victims, Father Dvorak said that as Christians we can't forget to pray for the shooter.

"If we really have faith that Jesus died for everyone we recognize that we can do some drastic evil things and be forgiven," he said. "We don't believe God will judge harshly those who are not sane. So when you think about the young man we should be thankful God is merciful."

A tragedy like the mall shootings provides the opportunity for people to remember what the season of Advent is about and ask themselves if there is a place for Jesus in their lives, he said.

"God is always with us," Father Dvorak said. "If we don't have that relationship with God, then maybe this is a call to begin to find out what's missing in our lives and to open ourselves up to the hope, peace and true joy that Christ brings."

## Cardinal McCarrick announces interfaith effort to fight terrorism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, led a group of religious leaders Nov. 30 in announcing a national interfaith grass-roots campaign to oppose terrorists and protect Americans from their violence.

Launching the campaign is Cardinal McCarrick; Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, chief rabbi of Temple Beth Ami in Rockville, Md.; and Rev. Samuel Lloyd III, dean of the Washington National Cathedral of the Episcopal Church.

Cardinal McCarrick said the campaign is comprised of people from different religious traditions, coming together with mutual respect and understanding, to protect Americans from terrorists and their violence.

"This is ... a monumental step," Cardinal McCarrick said. "This is the family gathering to say thanks be to God, the one God that we all worship. ... We're

all his children."

Citing work that had been done before to achieve peace in the Holy Land with representatives from different faiths, the cardinal said: "What we found is that we can all work together. ... What unites us is so much greater than what divides us."

He also welcomed, on behalf of other Christian and Jewish leaders, a "fatwa," or religious edict, issued by the Fiqh Council of North America, that in part stated its "unequivocal and unqualified condemnation of the destruction and violence committed against innocent men and women."

The council is a group of Islamic scholars who offer advice in areas of Islamic life in North America.

Cardinal McCarrick said people from all faiths are "one family," and "we really need to love each other, we really need to understand each other, and we really need to work together."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Advent Reconciliation Services*, including private confession and absolution, will be offered as follows: Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd.; Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., and Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral will host the *47th Annual Christmas Dinner* for those who would otherwise be without Christmas celebrations. The free dinner will be held in the St. Patrick School cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. This dinner is for those who, because of financial need, lack of family or travel, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation is provided for those who need it, and the dinner includes entertainment by volunteers and small gifts. Meals will also be delivered to those unable to attend. For reservations or transportation, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School,

7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at [mshuey2@nc.rr.com](mailto:mshuey2@nc.rr.com) or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 543-767, ext. 1040.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a support group for separated or divorced women and men. All are welcome to join us for encouragement and discussion with others making similar journeys at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questions, call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

CHARLOTTE — *Healing Hearts*, a support group for people coping with the death of a spouse, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Rd. For more information, contact Sister Therese Galligan, facilitator, at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — *The Healing Prayer Group* will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physical. Come and know the gentleness and

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Giving in to lust hurts other people, says papal preacher

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Giving in to lust hurts both the individual and other people, the preacher of the papal household told Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials.

Offering an Advent meditation Dec. 7, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa said often those who justify their life of impurity say "it is not hurting other people, it does not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others unless it entails carnal violence."

But such reasoning is wrong, he said, because carnal sin not only violates God's fundamental laws governing his creatures, but it threatens everyone.

Father Cantalamessa used an example from a Jewish holy book to illustrate how even one individual's personal sin affects the entire community.

Quoting the Talmud, he said: "A number of people are sitting in a small boat. One man begins to drill a hole under his seat. The other passengers ask

him, 'What are you doing?' He retorts, 'What does it matter to you? I'm drilling the hole under my own seat.' But they reply, 'Yes, but the water will come in and drown us all.'

"This is what is happening in our society," the papal preacher said. Even the church understands the kind of damage an individual's personal mistakes can inflict on the entire community, he added.

The evil of lust lies in the fact that reason is made subordinate to instinct instead of the other way around, he said.

If instinct rules, then "it becomes an enemy, not an ally, of love," and it can lead to savage crimes, Father Cantalamessa said.

He said young people today need convincing reasons "not to be afraid of their body and of love," but to be afraid of spoiling their bodies and the true meaning of love by being slaves to their passions.

unconditional love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday of each month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner at [chlt5nc@aol.com](mailto:chlt5nc@aol.com).

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Advent Reconciliation Services*, including private confession and absolution, will be offered as follows: Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St.; and Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd.

HIGH POINT — An *Advent Reconciliation Service*, including private confession and absolution, will be offered Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at [gmagrinat@pol.net](mailto:gmagrinat@pol.net) or John Malmfelt at [jmalmsie@aol.com](mailto:jmalmsie@aol.com).

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church

parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Primacy of Christ (Scotus)" Jan. 13, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Pope, Russian Orthodox official meet privately at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite ongoing differences and even tensions, the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church have permanent and "always-open channels of communication," said Orthodox Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's office for external relations.

Metropolitan Kirill met privately with Pope Benedict XVI Dec. 7 at the Vatican.

The Vatican did not release any details about the meeting, but an interview with Metropolitan Kirill was published late in the afternoon by L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

"The meeting with the pope was very positive and very beautiful," he said. "On our agenda there are many important themes such as the promotion of basic values."

Metropolitan Kirill's meeting with the pope came just four days after Russia's Interfax news agency quoted him as saying that the Roman Catholic dioceses in Russia should be downgraded to the status of "apostolic administration" that they had before 2002.

"We shall never recognize them and will always dispute the presence of ordinary Catholic dioceses in the territory of Russia and consider it a challenge to our common idea" of

church organization, Interfax quoted him as saying.

Metropolitan Kirill had said that when the Orthodox or the Catholics have communities outside their traditional homelands, a bishop should be in charge of their pastoral care, but that bishop should be an administrator, not the head of a normal diocese erected on a territory already assigned to another bishop.

He told L'Osservatore Romano Dec. 7: "In the theological dialogue we recognize that there exist specific difficulties between us. But at the same time, we maintain that dialogue is the best instrument for finding a common solution to the problems that exist."

The newspaper did not mention the Catholic dioceses in Russia and the metropolitan did not raise the subject in the interview, but he said the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church are increasingly optimistic and hopeful about their relationship.

"Without a doubt, the meeting with the pope was for us a very positive step in the development of our relations," he said.

Metropolitan Kirill said regular contact between Vatican and Russian Orthodox officials is essential for promoting the growing understanding of the other that is needed to resolve the tensions and the theological differences that keep Catholics and Orthodox apart.

## Prayers from Paraguay



CNS PHOTO BY JORGE ADORNO, REUTERS

Catholic pilgrims congregate in front of the cathedral in Caacupe, Paraguay, at sunrise Dec. 8. Hundreds of thousands of Catholics from all over Paraguay and bordering countries visited the cathedral Dec. 7-9 to honor Mary and pray for her intercession.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 22 — 10 a.m.  
Diaconate ordination of Brad Jones  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 25 — 11 a.m.  
Christmas Day Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte



## Hispanics honor Our Lady of Guadalupe with celebrations

KERNERSVILLE — An estimated 1,200 people came out to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe during a celebration at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Dec. 11.

It was one of many events honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe that were held around the Diocese of Charlotte. The feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Franciscan Father Joseph Tustin, pastor of Holy Cross Church, participated in the event at Holy Cross Church, which featured an elaborate recreation of a brown-skinned

Virgin Mary's miraculous apparitions to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in December 1531.

She left her image on his "tilma" or cloak.

For 476 years her image has been a symbol of unity, peace, compassion and hope for people around the world.

The apparitions are credited with the conversion to Catholicism of millions of indigenous people of Central and South America.

Bishop Jugis took part in another Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at St. Mark Church in Huntersville Dec. 12.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured with Hispanic parishioners of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville during a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 11.

## Bishop Jugis blesses new altars at St. John the Baptist Church

ALTAR, from page 1

When Father Patrick Winslow became pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in July 2006, he found a simple altar and ambo in the sanctuary.

"The appointments weren't 'ecclesiastical,'" said Father Winslow. "The altar was made of something like particle board covered in cloth and the ambo could have been a lectern in any conference room."

Also, the tabernacle housing the Blessed Sacrament was on a sidewall of the sanctuary.

"The Blessed Sacrament needed to be put in the center of the church, in accordance with diocesan norms," said Father Winslow.

After a conversation with Bishop Jugis, Father Winslow announced to the parish a fundraising campaign to purchase the new altars and ambo.

"I held out lofty goals for the parish, and they responded," Father Winslow said.

Fundraising began in the fall of 2006, and in less than one year \$110,000 had been collected, all in private donations.

"The money just poured in," said Karen Brunjes, office manager for St. John the Baptist Church. "We raised enough to have new flooring installed in the church as well."

"If we believe that the holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic life, then that ought to be expressed in both tangible and intangible ways," said Father Winslow.

"My hope and goal are that the graces we receive from the Mass will then animate people in their home lives and in the larger community," he said.

"This altar will provide spiritual inspiration for many years to come," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

## Keeping N.C. clean and green



COURTESY PHOTO

Members and relatives of the Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville are pictured during their highway cleanup Nov. 17. The Knights have helped keep clean both sides of Hastings Hill Road for years. Pictured (from left): Jean Dion; Ricardo Perez and his son, Christopher Perez; Bradley Shepherd and his father, David Shepherd; and Steve Salvitti.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Jane Schroeder of McDowell Hospital in Marion and Shirley Wilson of Healthy Start are pictured with preschool students at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Nov. 26.

## Preschoolers collect books for first-time moms

**GREENSBORO** — Kids at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro recently helped make a positive difference in other children's lives.

Members of the Kingdom's Kids preschool class collected 70 books as part of a service project for the Healthy Start program at McDowell Hospital in Marion.

Healthy Start is an intensive home visitation program for first-time mothers that begins at birth and continues

for three years.

Jane Schroeder, community outreach director at McDowell Hospital and a member of Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion; and Shirley Wilson, family support worker with Healthy Start, visited the preschool class at St. Paul the Apostle Church Nov. 26 to collect the books.

They brought the students a thank you card from the hospital, as well as doctor and nurse hats to wear.

## Helping at Thanksgiving



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the youth group at St. Barnabas Church in Arden are pictured Nov. 11 with boxes and bags of Thanksgiving food items they helped the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society collect and sort for needy families in their area. The youths have a service club called The Mother Teresa Club that meets monthly to perform service work for the church and community. The club decorated the boxes to hold the Thanksgiving food.

## Warming others



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured with some of the clothing items they collected as part of the "Helping Hands of Mercy" outreach program of the school and parish. The students collected more than 150 coats, scarves, hats, gloves and snow boots in November for the Hispanic community in Winston-Salem. They are already working on a second collection for this month.



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# Embezzlement suspected at Belmont parish

**EMPLOYEE SUSPENDED WHILE DIOCESE, POLICE INVESTIGATE**

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

**BELMONT** — The Diocese of Charlotte and police are investigating possible embezzlement of parish funds at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

Diocesan officials and Father Francis Cancro, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church, met with Belmont police Dec. 4 after an audit of church financial records revealed a loss of more than \$104,000 from the church.

In a statement to the news media, the Belmont Police Department reported: "An employee had been writing fraudulent checks that the church did not authorize. There were 85 fraudulent checks worth a total of \$104,290.10. The embezzlement occurred during the past several years."

Concerns about financial irregularities were raised by parish finance council members in November to Father Cancro, who has been pastor since July.

Father Cancro requested the diocesan audit of the parish financial records. The diocese then reported its discoveries to civil authorities.

A parish employee has been put on administrative leave during the investigation. Because no arrests have been made, The Catholic News & Herald will not publish the employee's name.

The financial irregularities discovered at the church do not presently involve any member of the parish finance council or clergy who have served at the parish.

According to William Weldon, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Charlotte, the loss of funds at Queen of the Apostles Church appears to

be an isolated incident and not part of a systematic attempt to defraud individual churches.

"The Diocese of Charlotte does not tolerate financial fraud, and anyone committing fraudulent acts is subject to civil and criminal prosecution," said Weldon.

"We remain committed to the highest standards of accountability, and are implementing new procedures throughout the diocese developed specifically in response to the situation at Queen of the Apostles Church," he said.

Diocesan insurance is expected to cover the loss of funds. A claim for the funds has already been submitted to the diocesan insurer.

Father Cancro explained the situation to parishioners at Masses celebrated the



FILE PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Pictured in this 2003 file photo is Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

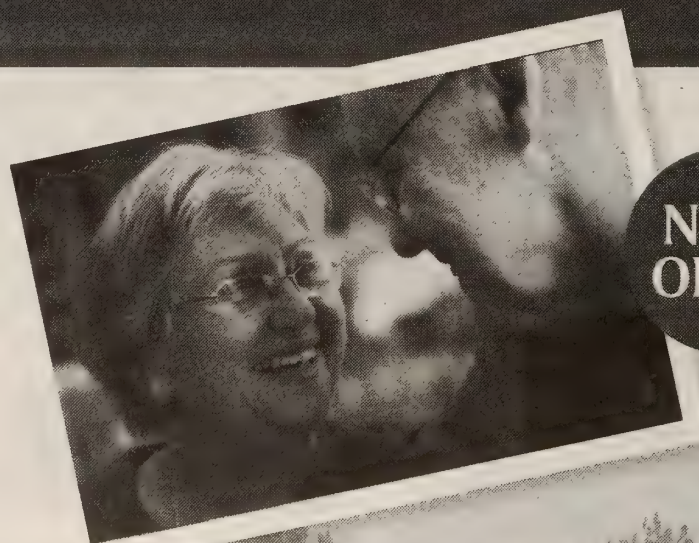
weekend of Dec. 8-9 and expressed regret over the incident.

"In this parish, we celebrate the good stewardship that is exercised over the resources parishioners entrust to us," said Father Cancro.

"The spirit of forgiveness requires us to move on with the important work of Queen of the Apostles," he said.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

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# Catholics: Sri Lankan conflict increases, religious tension decreases

CONFLICT, from page 1

tension now than there was before the tsunami,” said Father Damian Fernando, national director of Caritas Sri Lanka, the local affiliate of the Catholic umbrella group Caritas Internationalis.

About 70 percent of Sri Lanka’s population is Buddhist, while only about 8 percent is Christian. In the years before the tsunami, tensions between the two groups had increased, with occasional attacks on Christian church buildings.

Hindus, mostly ethnic Tamils on the island’s North coast, make up about 15 percent of the population. Muslims comprise another 8 percent.

Since the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami killed 35,000 people and left more than half a million homeless here, relationships have changed.

“In the minds of the Buddhist majority, especially the Buddhist clergy, proselytizing by some foreign groups had created suspicion. Overcoming that suspicion was a great challenge for us,” said Father Fernando.

“A similar fear existed with the Muslims in the East and Hindus in the North. They always think we’re coming just to convert people. So we had to win the confidence of the people,” he said.

“In communities where we worked on the south of the island, we involved the local Buddhist clergy. We put them on the steering committees for our projects, and only with their approval did we select beneficiaries,”

“They always think we’re coming just to convert people. So we had to win the confidence of the people.”

— Father Damian Fernando

Father Fernando said.

“And in the dedication ceremonies we’ve had in recent months, it’s the Buddhist clergy who have praised Caritas,” he said.

Sri Lanka’s political leaders have not matched the tone set by religious leaders, however. Renewed fighting between Tamil separatists in the North and the Sinhalese-dominated government in Colombo has killed more than 5,000 people since early 2006, making the death toll since the war erupted in 1983 around 70,000.

In addition, thousands of civilians, many just resettled after the destruction of the tsunami, have been uprooted from their homes by the renewed fighting.

“The tsunami was an opportunity for different religions to come together, and they’ve done so. It was a similar opportunity for our political leaders, and they’ve failed,” said Father Fernando.

“They didn’t make good use of the



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY

A family displaced by Sri Lanka’s 2004 tsunami is seen outside a temporary housing refuge south of the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. In a Nov. 30 report issued in New York, Human Rights Watch accused both the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of not taking adequate measures to facilitate humanitarian relief to the thousands of displaced people.

disaster for the good of the country. They put themselves ahead of the country,” he said.

According to a November report from the nonprofit International Crisis Group, a resurgence of Sinhalese nationalism in the South has emboldened extremists and handed “established politicians a diversion from their failure to address economic weakness, social concerns and pervasive corruption.”

The report also blamed the “brutality and intransigence” of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam for the country’s deteriorating political climate and argued that the two competing nationalist movements “have sapped the ability of governments to develop a consensus for a negotiated settlement and power sharing” to the decadeslong conflict.

Father Fernando said both sides manipulate the truth.

“Nobody can win this war. Both parties know that, but they deceive people. They don’t tell the truth. The government doesn’t report exactly what’s happening on the battlefield,” he said.

The rebels do the same thing, he added.

“Neither wants the truth to come out, because if it did then the people would tell these two conflicting parties that they’ve had enough,” he said.

The government claims that it has driven Tamil rebel troops out of the East and is in the process of launching a major attack on rebel strongholds in the North. The government reported that 39 rebel fighters and six government soldiers were killed in fighting Dec. 3.

“The military is always giving the impression that they are on the way north. And anyone who speaks against this is branded as a terrorist and can be arrested,” said Father Fernando.

“The government is telling us now that in the next few months they are going to win the war. It’s the same song over and over. This isn’t heading anywhere. And a lot of people are undergoing tremendous suffering as a result,” he said.

In a Nov. 30 report issued in New York, Human Rights Watch accused both the Sri Lankan government and the rebels of deliberately targeting civilians.

Human Rights Watch also said neither side has taken adequate measures to facilitate humanitarian relief to the thousands of newly displaced people. Aid workers have been targets of threats and attacks from both sides, prompting fears that international humanitarian organizations will leave the country.

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## MINDFUL QUESTIONS FOR 'GOLDEN COMPASS'

# Nun-critic offers media literacy guide for 'Compass' movie

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Rose Pacatte, a Daughter of St. Paul who has written books on spiritual themes in movies, has developed a "media mindfulness strategy" for the new film "The Golden Compass."

"The Golden Compass" film challenges believing adults to articulate their faith and values and to brush up on church history, theology, and literature and literary forms to do so — not because the film deals with these issues but because of the culture surrounding the release of the film," Sister Pacatte said in her guide to the movie.

"This film is an opportunity for us to develop our critical thinking skills: to ask questions and seek and articulate the answers: the answers to 'why?'" she added.

She admitted, "This is a difficult assignment for busy parents and teachers, but an excellent way to engage in our culture rationally and faithfully and with relevance."

"To 'just say no' is not a valid option in today's media world. Let us respond, rather than react, to the world around us."

The movie, which debuted in theaters Dec. 7, stars Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig.

It is based on the first book of British author Philip Pullman's trilogy of

fantasy novels for young readers, titled "His Dark Materials," and considered by many to be an overtly anti-Christian work. Pullman describes himself as an atheist.

"His Dark Materials" recounts the adventures of Lyra Belacqua, a 12-year-old girl in an alternate universe that resembles our own.

With the assistance of several other characters, she sets out to overthrow the Authority, which is God in Pullman's work.

The novels depict him as a weak, false god and, in the final book in the trilogy, he actually dies.

Sister Pacatte's guide asks a myriad of questions about the movie and plot developments, but they are grouped around four central areas:

— "What's going on? What's the story? How is the film's reality created and why?"

— "What's really going on? Who is telling the story and why? (The film business; the author; the screenwriter)"

— "What difference does the film make? Is it really atheistic? Or does it evoke thoughtful conversation about things that matter?"

— "What difference can I make? What did the characters in the film learn?"

— "How did they grow and change? Did they?"

— "What, if any, light did the film shed on how I can live the Christian life in ways that respect human dignity?"

By addressing these questions, Sister Pacatte said, "families can make an informed decision about seeing the film and once they see it, talk about it in meaningful ways with young people."

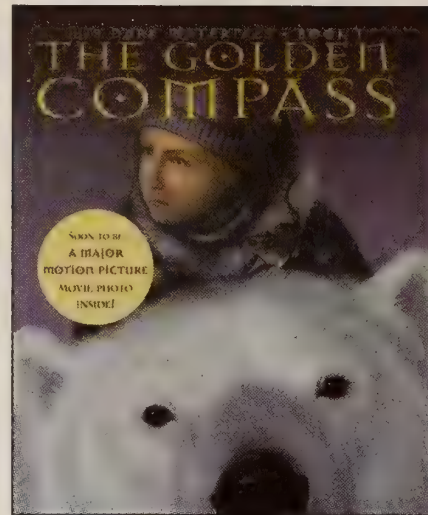


PHOTO BY CNS

This is the cover of "The Golden Compass," by Philip Pullman. Sister Rose Pacatte has developed a "media mindfulness strategy" for the film adaption of the story.

"Catechists and religion teachers can also use this strategy as a means to talk about theology and philosophy in the greater context of the books — presuming that they will choose the wise approach and read the books and see the film before entering into dialogue," he said.

## Critics debate

COMPASS, from page 1

religionist bent of both the novels and their author.

"Today, I saw the movie. And I'm not going to change a word of what I've written as a result," said a Nov. 20 online posting by Jeffrey Overstreet, author of the book "Through a Screen Darkly," a memoir and travelogue of "dangerous moviegoing," on his blog, the Looking Closer Journal.

"If the filmmakers tried to 'tone down' the anti-religious content, they pretty much failed," he said. "The Magisterium" is not a term invented by (book author) Philip Pullman. It's a reference to the Catholic Church, or at least to the truth that shines through Scripture and the history of the church. And it isn't hard to see that in the film."

The movie, which stars Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig and debuted in theaters Dec. 7, is based on the first book of British author Pullman's trilogy

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### WANT MORE INFO?

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# merits of 'Golden Compass' movie

titled "His Dark Materials." The other two volumes are "The Subtle Knife" and "The Amber Spyglass."

"His Dark Materials" recounts the adventures of Lyra Belacqua, a 12-year-old girl in an alternate universe that resembles our own. With the assistance of several other characters, she sets out to overthrow the Authority, which is God in Pullman's work. The novels depict him as a weak, false god and, in the final book in the trilogy, he actually dies.

Australian Sacred Heart Father Peter Malone, a film critic and author and former head of Signis, the worldwide association of Catholic communicators, said in a Nov. 25 statement on the movie:

"The Golden Compass' is well-made, with a lot of intelligent dialogue, including the word 'metaphysics' a couple of times. Much of the film requires attention as well as some developed vocabulary."

Father Malone acknowledged, "There are some aspects of the film that may raise a religious eyebrow." One is how "The Golden Compass" treats its parallel world.

"In our world, our souls are within us. In the parallel world, the soul is outside us, in the form of a symbolic animal called a daemon — not a devil but a 'spirit' according to the origins of the word," he said.

Another aspect is its use of "Magisterium" to describe "the all-powerful ruling body which is



CNS PHOTO BY NEW LINE

Dakota Blue Richards stars in a scene from the movie "The Golden Compass."

authoritarian and intent on eradicating free will," he said.

The Catholic Church uses magisterium for its teaching authority.

He added, "As with all controversies and campaigns, attack without the benefit of viewing a film undermines the credibility of a crusade whether it is

justified or not."

"Nothing says 'dark irony' like a movie focused on blasting a 'Magisterium' using a group of, er, bishops, to sell itself," said Amy Welborn, a former Catholic News Service columnist, in a Dec. 4 posting on her blog, Charlotte Was Both.

Last year she wrote the booklet "The Da Vinci Code Mysteries: What the Movie Doesn't Tell You," which was published a month before the film premiered in theaters.

Welborn mocked the reaction of some critics that "The Golden Compass" "is so, so valuable because it will give parents and young people a great opportunity to discuss the important issues raised by Pullman about religious authority, human freedom and so on."

"After we finish with 'The Golden Compass,' shall we break out 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion' to open up discussion on Judaism? Probably not," said Welborn. "Why? Because we recognize that the 'Protocols' are lies. ... So it is with 'The Golden Compass.'"

## Good film, bad message

In a joint review by Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, and John Mulderig, a staff critic for the office, "The Golden Compass" was classified A-II — adults and adolescents — for "intense but bloodless fantasy violence, anti-clerical subtext, standard genre occult elements, a character born out of wedlock and a whiskey-guzzling bear."

The now-withdrawn USCCB review rankled some in the blogosphere with its more positive than negative tone.

It said: "This film — altered, as it is, from its source material — rates as intelligent and well-crafted entertainment. ... Taken purely on its own cinematic terms, ('The Golden Compass') can be viewed as an exciting adventure story with, at its core, a traditional struggle between good and evil, and a generalized rejection of authoritarianism."

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, headed by Bill Donohue, had earlier called for a boycott of the movie, and it maintained its position in a Dec. 3 statement.

"The Catholic League wants Christians to stay away from this movie precisely because it knows that the film is bait for the books: Unsuspecting parents who take their children to see the movie may be impelled to buy the three books as a Christmas present," it said.

"And no parent who wants to bring their children up in the faith will want any part of these books," said the statement.

Jesuit Father James Martin, associate editor of Jesuit-run America magazine, quoted an article by religion journalist and author Hanna Rosin saying that Christians were offended by the portrayal of religion in the books.

"In this case, I agree with Donohue," Father Martin said in a Nov. 27 posting on the magazine's blog.

"Rosin's article seems to warn that when parents buy their kids something they expect to mirror 'The Chronicles of Narnia,' they might be surprised — or appalled — when they learn that it's less like ('Narnia' author) C.S. Lewis than Christopher Hitchens," a high-profile anti-religionist who made the best-seller list this year with the book "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything."

In his column in the Nov. 24 issue of the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes alluded to "The Golden Compass" in his column, "The Lure of Atheism."

"I do understand that the film is less blatant than the books but may serve as an inducement to the purchase of the books. Atheism is alive and well!" he said.

Archbishop Hughes added, "There is a spiritual war going on. The kingdom of Satan is at war with the kingdom of God. Rebellion, from the beginning, has been Satan's goal. His weapons are violence and deceit. In some ways, violence is easier to fight against."

The Pullman trilogy is an "ode to the joy of living in a physical world, a hymn to flesh, to exuberance, to the here and now, to free thought, imagination and feeling, to nobility of spirit," according to a review by Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda.

"I happen to think that these positive traits are entirely compatible with organized religion and so I choose to focus on the positive rather than on any anti-religious themes in these books," said Paul Lauritzen, director of the Program in Applied Ethics at Jesuit-run John Carroll University in Cleveland, commenting on Dirda's review.

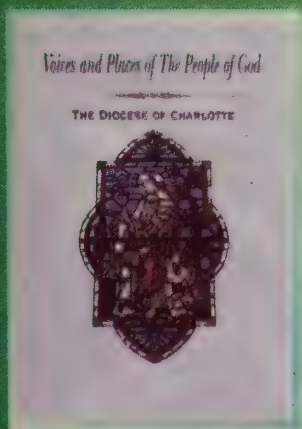
Lauritzen is a contributor to dotCommonweal, a blog run by the Catholic magazine Commonweal.

"Movies are cultural moments, and those who resist this movie are doing so to build up a culture of respect for the Catholic Church and in so doing militantly oppose those artists who insult and denigrate it," said a posting on the American Papist blog, run by Thomas Peters, who describes himself as "a young lay Catholic with a master's degree in theology" who is studying in Washington.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Some children's books suitable for giving at Christmas

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The following children's books are suitable for Christmas giving:

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" by Betty Ann Schwartz, illustrated by Judith Moffatt. Preschoolers and young readers will be delighted with this colorful, sturdy book that illustrates the Christmas carol of the same name.

The illustrations are multicultural and include collage-type paper-doll ladies dancing, cornhusk-doll maids-a milking, etc. In the middle of each double-page illustration is a large Christmas tree, with a ribbon imprinted with pears, golden rings, geese, etc. — for each of the 12 days. However, the ribbons make the book unsuitable for smaller children (ages 3-5).

"St. Francis and the Wolf" by Jane Langton, illustrated by Ilse Plume.

Langton retells in a very readable fashion the fable of St. Francis of Assisi taming the wolf that was terrorizing the people of Gubbio, Italy.

The typeface, which resembles calligraphy, adds to the historical tone of the story. But what makes this book extra special are Plume's colored-pencil illustrations, with extraordinary detail, down to the texture of the cobblestones or a wooden door on a house.

Nonreaders will enjoy the illustrations, but young readers will enjoy the recounting of this tale (ages 5-up).

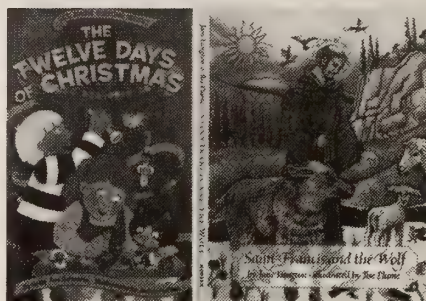
"Great Joy" by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. This magnificently illustrated, heartwarming book is a different kind of holiday tale, one that addresses Christmas' true meaning.

When an organ grinder and monkey appear on a nearby corner a week before Christmas, young Frances is full of curiosity about them — she even wonders where they sleep and what they eat. As Frances' mother prepares the child's angel costume for the church Christmas pageant, Frances discovers the man and monkey sleep on the street.

Ibatoulline's large, detailed illustrations are softened around the edges to help give the feeling of older times, when the story occurs. At the end of the book, when Frances announces tidings of great joy in the pageant, her face and eyes shine in the illustration (ages 7-12).

"The Aurora County All-Stars" by Deborah Wiles. This book has it all: baseball, friendship, boys vs. girls issues, humor.

In short chapters with occasional updates from The Aurora County News, Wiles weaves the tale of 12-year-old House Jackson, who tries to work out reasons for the death of a family friend



and what that means for him, his friends and the children of Mabel, Miss.

The characters are well developed, the story line is a hoot and the final product is guaranteed to be a home run with readers (ages 8-13).

"Annie's War" by Jacqueline Levering Sullivan.

World War II is over, but young Annie Leigh is still fighting her own internal war, hoping her father can be found alive and wondering what caused her uncle to turn mean.

When Annie's mother sends her to Washington state to live with her grandmother, Annie meets a young African-American woman who helps her learn firsthand about love, bigotry and courage (ages 8-12).

"Bunker 10" by J.A. Henderson. This futuristic novel is a real action tale that might initially leave older readers asking, "What happened?"

It combines suspense, intrigue and science fiction with biotechnological issues that a group of teen geniuses on a military installation — or at least, it seems like that is where they are — are facing (ages 12-up).

"Shape Me a Rhyme: Nature's Forms in Poetry" by Jane Yolen, photographs by Jason Stemple. Stemple's beautiful double-page photographs capture shapes in nature while Yolen's poems — full of action verbs, metaphors and adjectives — look at the shape from a different point of view.

Yolen includes other nouns, verbs and adjectives — superimposed on the photos — so that readers might write their own poems on the shape. The result is a visual and aesthetic delight (all ages).

"Peek in My Pocket" by David A. Carter. Carter's animals pop right up out of this large square book, so toddlers will want to keep turning pages.

Each animal has a pocket, behind which lies a surprise associated with a shape: a square jack-in-a-box, a diamond-shaped kite, etc. Carter's colorful illustrations and clever designs will give toddlers hours of fun (ages 1-3).

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 23, 2007

Dec. 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Readings:

1) Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6

2) Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

### Advent is a time to allow God's grace to sink in

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

About 10 years ago I wrote a meditation on "obedience" in which I wondered what it would be like if I could do as dog owners do and send my children to obedience school, thereby outsourcing some of the challenging work of parenting.

At the time I had lots of food for my musings — my children were 3, 8 and 12, and as I recall they were all testing parental boundaries in their own unique ways.

Many times I felt that if they just paid attention and listened more closely, they could understand why my instructions were so important for their wellbeing. Of course, the whole point of the reflection was that when it came to obeying God, I probably didn't do much better than they.

The root of the word "obey" is the Latin word for "paying attention" or

"listening." Fast forward 10 years: The Scriptures for this Sunday are "still" about obedience, and I am "still" pushing the limits and wearying God, much like Ahaz is doing in the Isaiah reading when he refuses to ask the Lord for a sign.

Ahaz isn't obeying because he just doesn't "get it," which means he isn't really listening to God but is hiding behind his own misguided piety.

In the Gospel, Joseph doesn't "get it" either, at least not at first. He already has decided, with the best of intentions, to quietly divorce his pregnant fiancé.

Thankfully, he takes a nap that suspends his own thoughts and plans, giving God enough access to communicate an alternate and more marvelous way. It's to Joseph's credit and our eternal benefit that when he awakened, he not only "got it," he "did as the Lord commanded and took Mary into his home."

St. Paul tells us that the "obedience of faith" — our ability not only to "get it" but to act on what we've heard — is brought about by "grace," which is simply God's unobstructed presence accomplishing God's purpose in our lives.

Advent is a time to suspend our own agendas, "pay attention," and surrender ourselves to that grace, no matter how many years it takes to sink in!

**Questions:**

In what ways have you "wornied the Lord" by stubbornly choosing your own way over God's? What can you do this Advent to pay closer attention to the message of grace?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 16-22

Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; Monday (Late Advent Weekday), Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday), Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday), Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; Thursday (Late Advent Weekday), Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; Friday (St. Peter Canisius), Song of Songs 2:8-14, Luke 1:39-45; Saturday (Late Advent Weekday), 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 23-29

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent), Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; Monday (Late Advent Weekday), 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Luke 1:67-79; Tuesday (Nativity of the Lord), Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; Wednesday (St. Stephen), Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; Thursday (St. John), 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8; Friday (Holy Innocents), 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; Saturday (St. Thomas Becket), 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35.

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# Discussing the 'Mystery of the Mass'



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Matthew Buettner, pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, is pictured with Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa during a taping of "EWTN Live!" at the Eternal Word Television Network studios in Alabama Dec. 5.

Father Buettner discussed his book, "Understanding the Mystery of the Mass," a collection of his popular series of columns of the same name, which appeared in The Catholic News & Herald during the Year of the Eucharist in 2005.

Each column addresses an aspect of the Mass, from preparation to concluding rites. The purpose, as well as that of the collected works in the book, is to "assist the Catholic faithful to better understand the mystery of the Mass so we can better assist at holy Mass and participate more fully," said Father Buettner.

Also, he said, "it serves to introduce non-Catholics to the tremendous gift that we have been given in the holy Mass."

The 90-page book may prove to be a great resource for RCIA, adult education and confirmation classes, he said, as well as for those whose Catholic education could use refreshing.

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# Pope among 12 religious leaders on CBS documentary 'In God's Name'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The genesis for a documentary on why people use religion and faith as justification for some of history's most horrible acts came from one recent horrible act: the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Jules Naudet, who with brother Gedeon produced the upcoming CBS documentary "In God's Name," collaborated with his older brother on "9/11," which aired on CBS five years ago.

Until the terrorist attacks, the Naudets were planning on making a documentary on the lives of firefighters. What resulted was something entirely different. And the effects of that tragedy provided motivation for "In God's Name."

"It was the moment where I was filming in the lobby of the World Trade Center, and hearing that horrible roar coming from above," the Paris-born Naudet told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 30 telephone interview from New York, his home for the past 18 years.

He and his brother were at the trade center that day because they had begun work on their film about firefighters.

"Having the first World Trade Center tower coming down on us, me running for my life and thinking I was going to die," Naudet said, "this strange question popped into my head: Why am I here? What is the meaning of life?"

"I survived that day, and for a few months these questions were in the back of my head and nagging me. I talked it over with my brother," he said.

They decided "why don't we go to see the people who should have these answers? These are kind of the spiritual beacons on our planet," he said.

Pope Benedict XVI is one of 12 spiritual leaders, five of them Christian, featured in the documentary. Non-Christians include the Dalai Lama, the chief rabbi of Israel, a Hindu spiritual leader and a prominent Sunni Muslim leader.

The pope was the only one of the 12 who did not sit down with the Naudets for a private interview.

"The Vatican historically has not given interviews. A pope has not given a private interview because his exclusivity in a way would not be fair," Naudet told CNS. "But I think we worked very closely with him. We went through all the archives and found features of His Holiness to find answers to the questions we had: What is the meaning of life? What is the future, his hopes, his fears?"

Through the archival research, they were able to find images "that never had been seen before," Naudet said.

"I think people will look differently on the pope when you see him. ... That will give them another dimension that people would not previously see," he said.

The Naudets can't say yet exactly what viewers will see when "In God's Name" hits the airwaves Dec. 23, 9-11 p.m. EST. They're still in the editing room when they're not granting interviews.

Making a film, Naudet said, is like "putting together this amazing and beautiful puzzle. It's hard to do."

The brothers calculated that over 165 days of filming "we have 180 hours of footage to condense into a two-hour special. It's heartbreaking in a way. Every time you remove something you feel like you're tearing a limb from yourself," Naudet said.

The two have been a filmmaking team since boyhood.

"We see slightly different things. We are a body with two different heads. We arrive at the same conclusion but from two different points of view," he added.

Raised as an agnostic by their parents, Naudet said his beliefs didn't change when making "In God's Name."

"I don't think I can say at the end of the journey itself after meeting these people that I found God," he told CNS, "but I found hope — which is what I was wrestling with. I did not know what kind of answers we were going to get. It was a little frightening."

"The lesson I get from this is that we have more to unite us than divide us," he said. "That is what gave me great hope."

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(across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at noon to Trade & Tryon St. Then continue on to the courthouse at 401 W. Trade St. to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot; if you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march!!

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# Many search for Kyle

KYLE, from page 1



Kyle Fleischmann

messages and the phone has been turned off since.

"There have been no substantial leads as to where he has gone; nothing really changed (since Nov. 9)," said Scagnelli, who is serving as the family's media contact for the search efforts.

Scagnelli said Fleischmann's family is concentrating on getting the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police to treat the case as a criminal one, rather than just a missing person.

## The search goes on

Fleischmann's family and friends made a concentrated effort to put his story in the public eye soon after his disappearance.

"Most people don't know how to react in a situation like this," said Scagnelli.

"We didn't know either, but we pushed and pushed for attention (from police and media)," he said. "We will keep on pushing until we can put this to rest."

Within days of his disappearance, a Web site, [www.helpfindkyle.com](http://www.helpfindkyle.com), was launched and a "Help Find Kyle" groups were set up on the social networking sites Facebook and MySpace. Press releases were sent to news agencies across the country.

As of Dec. 12, more than 70,000 members had joined the groups on Facebook and MySpace.

Soon Fleischmann's story was appearing on CNN, America's Most Wanted and local news stations as far away as San Diego.

Last month, the Kyle Fleischmann Foundation was incorporated as a nonprofit organization to coordinate fundraising and search efforts.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation and the Charlotte Catholic Alumni Association have both made contributions to the Kyle Fleischmann Foundation. The school's annual fund is contributing 10 percent of the donations from November and December, and 50 percent of the donations made by members of the class of 2002.

"Everyone is so shocked that something like this could happen to

one of our own," said Jennifer Johnson, director of development and alumni affairs for Charlotte Catholic. "We keep praying for Kyle and that this will come to some sort of resolution."

Scagnelli said a Mass was celebrated recently at Charlotte Catholic for Fleischmann.

## Heartache and hope

"We cannot begin to describe the pain, sadness and heartache that we feel right now," Fleischmann's family wrote on the Web site. "However, Kyle has shown us how to be strong."

"He has shown us how to have faith," the letter continued. "We will never give up until we find him."

Scagnelli said Fleischmann's friends and family will continue in their fundraising efforts to finance the search and a \$25,000 reward for information regarding the whereabouts of Fleischmann or what happened on the night of his disappearance.

"As the search goes on, people's prayers and support are greatly appreciated," said Scagnelli.

"We believe that God has a reason for this happening, and we hope that we will see that reason soon," he said.

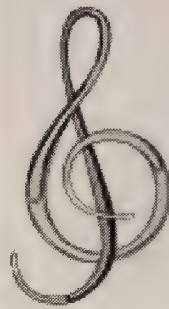
Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

## WANT TO HELP?

For the latest information on Kyle Fleischmann, visit [www.helpfindkyle.com](http://www.helpfindkyle.com). If you have any information, call 911 or Crime Stoppers at (704) 334-1600 (calls can be anonymous).

Fleischmann is a white male, age 24, with green eyes and brown hair. He is 6 feet tall and weighs 180 pounds.

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## Director of Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

The Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach is seeking a director of youth and young adult faith formation to lead and coordinate catechetical formation for high school and junior high school youth and to coordinate a growing young adult ministry. Ministry with high school youth includes a peer-led, adult-guided, Spirit-filled program using the guidelines of RENEWING THE VISION. This minister will be an integral part of the Christian Formation Staff working with a Youth Ministry team and with supervision from the director and the pastor. Qualifications include college degree, experience working with youth and a parish staff, and openness to continuing education and formation. Salary commensurate with Diocesan guidelines and experience. The position is open now. Contact Father James E. Parke, 4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia at 757-495-1886.

## Deputy Director



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Submit a letter of interest and resumé to Jeannie Wray, Executive Director, 3737 Weona Ave., Charlotte, NC 28209-2355 or to [jeanniewray@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jeanniewray@carolina.rr.com). Applications accepted through Jan. 8, 2008.

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THE MARCH FOR LIFE  
Washington, D.C., January 20-22, 2008



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Henry Hyde: Persistent defender of life

*Purpose of Christian education is to help change world, said congressman*

Henry Hyde, the long-serving U.S. congressman, died recently at age 83. There are many reasons to praise Hyde's public service, but the most significant was his unswerving defense of human life.

The Hyde Amendment that bars federal funding for abortions is an important and, one can hope, lasting legacy.

My fondest memory of Henry Hyde actually begins with Mario Cuomo in mid-September 1984 at the University of Notre Dame. Cuomo had been invited with much national fanfare by the chair of theology to give a major address on religion and politics.

Cuomo's talk was eloquent, but in my view, deeply mistaken. It basically argued that it was inappropriate to use faith-based argumentation in public debate.

In short, it was an intellectual rationalization for the "I'm personally opposed to, but ..." position on abortion.

Back then, I was director of Notre Dame's White Center on Law and Government, and I asked Henry Hyde if he would consider responding to Cuomo's address.

Less than two weeks later on Sept. 24, 1984, the ever-witty Hyde opened his presentation to an overflow crowd in the law school, observing wryly: "Someone has remarked that this must be an election year; everyone's talking about theology."

Continuing, he set the context.

"The great bulk of commentary in recent weeks has been to the effect that the new church-state debate was caused by the rise of the religious new right, and its allies in the Catholic hierarchy.

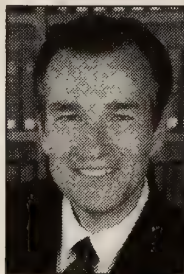
"This is too simple an analysis, and fails to take measure of a longer-standing phenomenon on our national life: the rise of a militant secular separationist perspective on the constitutional questions that seek to rule religiously-based values 'out of order' in the public arena."

Directly answering Cuomo with civility and respect, Hyde reasoned that "it is clearly insufficient for a Catholic public official to hold that his or her personal, conscientious objection to abortion is a matter of personal choice for himself or herself and that is the end of the matter.

"It doesn't make sense to say an abortion takes a life and it should be allowed. If a fetus represents a human life, its disposition cannot be strictly a

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



private matter."

So what did Hyde want public officials to do?

What he would do all his life: namely, let people know that abortion was not, he said, "just a Catholic issue or a Mormon issue, but a moral and a civil rights issue."

Public officials must not bemoan the lack of consensus; they must build one.

"I have always believed," Hyde continued, "that the purpose of a Christian education is to help us change the world. I have never heard a commencement address admonish graduates to 'go out there and don't change the world!'"

"Forgive some unsolicited advice," Hyde observed, "but you will find it awfully hard to go anywhere in the world without your soul tagging along. ... And you needn't be too deferential if someone tells you a pre-born baby's life is too trivial to protect.

"St. Ambrose said it's 'not only for every idle word must man render an account, but for every idle silence.'"

There was a palpable sense of grace in that room as Hyde spoke that day. As the late afternoon sun streamed through the leaded, gothic windows, he would close with these words:

"There once was a just man who lived many centuries ago who tried to save Sodom from destruction. He ignored the warnings of people who mocked him with silence and who shielded themselves with indifference."

"The just man," said Hyde, "still persisted."

"Taking pity on him, a child asked, 'Why do you go on?' The just man replied that in the beginning he thought he could change man. 'Today,' he said, 'I know I cannot. If I still shout and scream, it's to prevent them from changing me.'"

Henry Hyde hardly ever shouted or screamed, but he would persist. And now at the time of his death, there is no question but that Henry Hyde's most profound witness was that he chose life.

Requiescat in pace.

## Entitlement and ingratitude

*Youths need reminder that gifts are undeserved*

The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas provide me with an annual context for reflection on the relationship of entitlement to ingratitude.

Thanksgiving, of course, puts the accent where it should be — on giving, saying and doing thanks. Men and women of faith look to God first and foremost for expressions of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day.

Even nonbelievers, I suspect, welcome this American invention of a secular feast day for the occasion it provides to look left and right, if not up to heaven, to say thanks for benefits, if not blessings; and for good luck, if not the generosity of the good Lord.

Once in the thanks-saying, thanksgiving, thanks-doing mood of late November, it is quite literally a short step to Christmas, which, one might expect, should be a season of great gratitude.

However, I've noticed at Christmastime and in other seasons of the year a rising sense of entitlement in America, especially among the young. I've begun to conclude that ingratitude is the infrastructure of entitlement.

St. Ignatius of Loyola once remarked that "ingratitude is at the root of all sinfulness." He was on to something.

When ingratitude takes over one's outlook, there is an erosion of a sense of obligation, including moral obligation.

"Much obliged" is a way the old American vernacular had of saying thanks. If you have nothing to be thankful for, i.e., if you feel entitled to everything you have and might receive, you are unencumbered by a sense of any obligation.

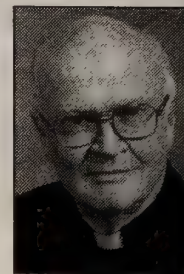
You are free to be your selfish, solipsistic, narcissistic self. Total self-absorption is another word for sin.

A decade or more ago I found myself describing students I was then meeting in the college classroom as characterized by a sense of entitlement. They "deserved" good grades, good health, good jobs, the best of everything the world had to offer.

Cultural reinforcement for this attitude of entitlement came and continues to come through their entertainment and

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This outlook has seeped down into high school and middle school — to the teens and "tweens" who never say thanks.

So, what did you get for Christmas? Now that you've got it, are you happier than before?

Are you disappointed that it wasn't what you really wanted or, worse, that it is not as good as something someone you know has received?

Many years ago I pressed a child for a working definition of the word gift. "A gift is when somebody gives you something," she said.

What if I had loaned you a dollar earlier and now I'm giving it back? Here, take the dollar. Is that a gift? It fits your definition. A moment's pondering prompted the youngster to revise her definition and say, "A gift is when you get something you don't deserve."

How true. How very appropriate for Christmas reflection. What a positive indicator that we have, through an awareness of gratitude, a way of protecting ourselves from the virus of entitlement.

Christmas will be a good deal merrier and happier for all if we realize that the gifts we exchange are not only undeserved, but symbols to remind us that Christmas is a worldwide celebration of the gift of salvation to which none of us has a claim, except through our faith in Christ Jesus the Lord.

### Response to 'Compass' review

In the Dec. 7 issue, Harry Forbes and John Mulderig gave their critical opinion of the recently released movie, "The Golden Compass." While the movie itself may not be "blatantly anti-Catholic," the author and books from which it springs certainly are.

It is a danger to simply take the movie, as the reviewers suggest, only on its own cinematic terms because the movie encourages the book, which encourages the trilogy of books that are blatantly anti-Catholic and anti-Christian.

The reviewers go on to suggest that rather than banning the film or books, parents might instead talk through any thorny philosophical issues with their teens. Such philosophical discussions might better take place prior to contact

### Letter to the Editor

with the material so children might realize the importance of avoiding those things that are not Godly and not in harmony with the Catholic faith.

It is unfortunate in a day and age when attacks on the church and Christianity are rather common that such a review would come from an office of the USCCB. Thankfully, the U.S. bishops appear to have recognized this and have since withdrawn the review.

The problems with the film and books have been highlighted regularly by the Catholic League. Its efforts may be behind the film's opening weekend being far less successful than expected.

— Father John Putnam, pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury



# More than just another day in paradise

*'Spe Salvi' offers much to contemplate at Christmastime*

Many people find the prospect of eternal life unattractive because living forever appears to be more a curse than a gift.

"To live always without end — this, all things considered, can only be monotonous and ultimately unbearable," one writer said.

What is this? Another religion-bashing article from a hostile press? The meanderings of a blogger or the vitriol of a shock jock?

None of the above. These are among the thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI expressed in his latest encyclical on the topic of Christian hope released Nov. 30.

Encyclicals rarely dominate the news nowadays unless they can be portrayed as positioning a pope to oppose something that has popular appeal in the world.

Presumptuous as it may be to say, "Spe Salvi" is really a good read.

Although some parts may be of particular interest to theologians and scholars, "Spe Salvi" is remarkably accessible with much to say to the contemporary individual in language and presentation that is serious but not ponderous.

The style is reminiscent of being in a classroom, with the pope much like the professor he is with language such as: "Let us summarize what has emerged so far," and, after a digression, "Let us

return to our topic."

All encyclicals of course must be valued as serious teaching documents. But they can also be of the type that causes a reader to say, "Hey, listen to this."

There is enough rich, thought-provoking material in "Spe Salvi" to provide small-group discussions months of material.

The principle theme of this encyclical is the connection of faith and hope; Christians have a future and know that their life will not end in emptiness. Salvation is not individual. Coming to know God is to receive hope — if not to take it for granted.

"We who have always lived with the Christian concept of God and have grown accustomed to it have almost ceased to notice that we possess the hope that ensues from a real encounter with this God," the pope wrote.

In addition to his main theme, he offers some thought-provoking reflections: "Eternal life" is a term meant to describe the unknown for which we are hoping. The word "eternal" suggests interminable and thus frightening, Pope Benedict notes.

The word "life" is understood to be the life we know and love and do not want to lose.

But he suggests eternity is not an unending succession of days on the

**Extra!  
Extra!**

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



calendar but something more like a supreme moment of satisfaction "like plunging into the ocean of infinite love when time — before or after — no longer exists."

Just that should keep a faith-sharing group in business for some time.

Another "thought starter":

"Christians in the context of their knowledge and experience must learn anew in what their hope truly consists, what they have to offer to the world and what they cannot offer."

The Christian perspective is that hope makes sense as the human response to a loving God.

"This trust is reflected in the hearts of little ones, of the humble, who despite everyday problems and trials, they try to do their best and accomplish that little bit of good which, however in the eyes of God is a great deal: in the family, the workplace, in school and in various sectors of society."

A thoughtful, reflective reading of "Spe Salvi" is not only a good Advent exercise, it can be an early Christmas gift to remind us of the life-changing hope that Christ brought into the world.

## Pope says unity in Christ makes friends out of strangers

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being united in Christ makes friends even out of complete strangers, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

"Without having met, we know each other because we are members of one body," the body of Christ and the church, he said quoting a letter by St. Paulinus to St. Augustine.

During his Dec. 12 general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, the pope continued a series of talks on the teachers of the early church with a catechesis on St. Paulinus, the bishop of Nola in southern Italy.

The pope said St. Paulinus used his gifts as poet and lover of literature to serve the church. Pope Benedict quoted the saint as saying "for me, the only art — faith — is Christ, my poetry."

St. Paulinus' correspondence with many contemporary churchmen revealed his sense of communion, the pope said.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the great teachers of the early church, we now turn to St. Paulinus, the bishop of Nola in southern Italy.

A native of Bordeaux in Gaul, Paulinus became the Roman governor of Campania, where, after encountering the depth of popular devotion to St. Felix Martyr, he was led to embrace the Christian faith.

After the tragic loss of their first child, he and his wife sold their goods and undertook a life of chastity and prayer. Ordained a priest and then bishop of Nola, Paulinus distinguished himself by his charity to the poor during the troubled times of the barbarian invasions.

A man of letters and a gifted poet, Paulinus placed his art at the service of Christ and the church. In his poetry and his vast correspondence, Paulinus expressed his deep faith and his love of the poor.

His letters to such contemporary churchmen as Sts. Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome and Martin of Tours, reflect his asceticism, his deep sense of the church's communion and his cultivation of the practice of spiritual friendship as a means of experiencing that communion within the mystery of Christ's mystical Body, enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

## A Christmas gift for the Holy Land

*Catholics can help broker peace in war-torn land*

History — both ancient and contemporary — reveals that humanity has a powerful tendency toward war.

But in the first reading of the First Sunday of Advent, we heard Isaiah the prophet remind us that the way of God is peace:

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."

As we look around us today, however, it seems like God's way of peace is far off into the future. The sins of arrogance, nationalism, anger and selfishness continue to feed the insatiable appetite of the god of war.

Yet there's hope. Advent is the ideal time to remember that God — Emmanuel — is with us. And, therefore, all things are possible, even peace!

One hopeful sign was the recent Annapolis Conference in Maryland.

There Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert promised to "make every effort" to complete a total peace agreement by this time next year.

And the Bush administration promised to be robustly engaged in the negotiations. But a promise is one thing. Following through to its realization is yet another.

Father Jim Kofski, associate on

Middle East issues for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and a former longtime resident of Egypt and Palestine, explained to me that since Abbas is in a far weaker position than Olmert, it is essential that the United States be seen as a fair broker.

Father Kofski said that hundreds of Israeli military checkpoints in the occupied West Bank make normal Palestinian commerce impossible. Traveling from Ramallah to Bethlehem, for example, a journey that should take just half an hour, instead takes several hours.

"Many people trying to reach a hospital have died waiting at the checkpoints," said Father Kofski.

Making matters worse is the Israeli separation barrier which extends into Palestinian territory.

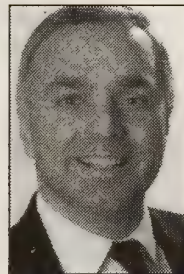
Fair access to water is another major injustice. Israeli settlements built on top of water aquifers in the occupied West Bank are causing water levels to drop for many Palestinians.

And yet Israel will not allow Palestinians to drill new wells.

Father Kofski said Catholics can help bring peace to the Holy Land by contacting Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, asking her to act as a fair broker by urging Israel to return the occupied West Bank to Palestine and to dismantle most of its settlements there.

## Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



Not only is this just, but it is necessary for the creation of a connected Palestinian nation.

Also request that she urge Israel to make Jerusalem an international city and allow the Palestinians to make East Jerusalem their capitol. Ask her to urge Israel to provide fair compensation to every displaced Palestinian refugee.

Although the militant Palestinian group Hamas is hostile toward Israel, peace will not happen without their cooperation. Therefore, urge Rice to open channels of dialogue with Hamas.

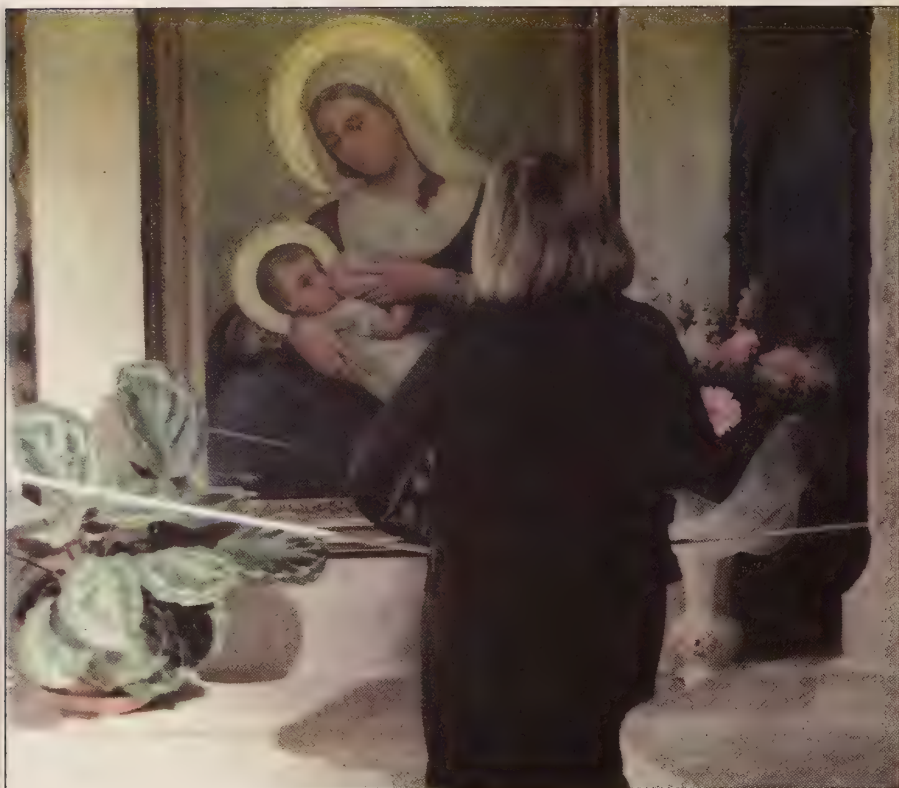
Finally, ask her to insist that both Israel and a future Palestinian state guarantee full religious freedom for all.

It would also be helpful to ask your congressional delegation to urge the Bush administration to push forward on the above points.

With our persistent prayers and actions we can help Israelis, Palestinians and neighboring Arab nations finally live together in peace.

Now wouldn't that be a wonderful 2008 Christmas gift!





CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Local resident Hilda Berkley prays near a painting of Mary breast-feeding the infant Jesus at the Milk Grotto chapel in Bethlehem, West Bank, Dec. 5. The grotto is believed to be a place where Mary fed Jesus as the Holy Family fled to Egypt. Pilgrims, especially women who want to conceive, have visited the grotto for centuries.

# The power of 'milk powder'

*Bethlehem's Milk Grotto brings faith, hope and sometimes babies*

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — The rows of framed letters and baby pictures are testimony that the Milk Grotto — where Mary is said to have nursed Jesus as the Holy Family fled to Egypt — has been much more than a pilgrimage to many couples.

One picture on the wall of the Milk Grotto's chapel shows a mother from Argentina happily nursing her newborn baby.

In another letter a mother from Spain wrote, "Carmen is a gift from heaven." A couple from Ireland wrote, "In thanksgiving and deep gratitude to Our Blessed Lady for our dear son Jamie."

Another mother from India described how she and her husband had given up on a child after nine years of trying to conceive. Now, she wrote, after the birth of their daughter, her "whole life will be a life of thanksgiving."

From Venezuela another woman wrote how after five miscarriages she gave birth to a "miracle baby, Leonardo Jose."

One after another, parents from such far-flung places as Sri Lanka, the United States, Canada, Bermuda and England have written about the miraculous birth of their children after having prayed using the "milk powder" from the grotto.

"Throughout the centuries this has been a place for special devotion for women ... who are trying to conceive," said Franciscan Brother Lawrence, an American who oversees the grotto and chapel for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

According to tradition, he said, a few drops of Mary's milk dropped onto the cave floor as she stopped to nurse her child.

"Women who can't have children have a very hard time. With this prayer they are filled," he said.

Some people have even brought their babies back to the small shrine inside the grotto to give thanks, he said.

The grotto is at least 2,000 years old and the early Christians came to pray here, he said, but the first structure was built over it around 385.

The faithful have venerated the spot for its powers as early as the fourth century, he said, and local women of all faiths and denominations come here to pray for children, taking with them bits of the "milk powder" from the soft limestone found throughout the grotto.

Holes the width of a finger can be found in several spots in the grotto ceiling of the newly renovated shrine, where over the years people have scraped out

the fine dust to take home with them.

About 10 years ago when Brother Lawrence came to the grotto the Franciscans began preparing small packets of the limestone powder to give people for a small donation. They do not sell the powder online, he said, because the number of requests would be overwhelming and expensive to fill.

Plenty of limestone to last for years is in blocked-off places in the grotto, said Brother Lawrence.

Sometimes friends and relatives of a couple trying to conceive have visited the shrine and take back the powder with them, and people have written attesting to the powder's power to heal illnesses and reverse breach babies, he said.

The renovations on the shrine, which were started three years ago and completed at the end of 2006, have revealed sixth- and seventh-century Byzantine mosaic floors. The walls and ceiling were cleaned of soot from centuries of oil lamps and candle-burning.

The structure was made handicapped-accessible, and a larger chapel was added on the second level to accommodate pilgrim groups who want to celebrate Mass there.

A local Mass is held every Wednesday afternoon in the small church adjacent to the grotto.

The Sacramentine Nuns hold a round-the-clock prayer vigil in shifts at a special altar behind a glass window in a cordoned-off part of the shrine.

Faithful of all religions and denominations continue to venerate the grotto, said Brother Lawrence.

Every denomination has a different form of prayer with the powder, he said, but according to Catholic tradition both the husband and wife must drink a bit of the powder mixed with milk or water for nine days and recite the prayer for the third joyful mystery of the rosary, said Brother Lawrence.

"They pray from their heart asking Our Lady of the Milk for intercession in healing," he said, noting that he has heard of 1,700 babies born in the last 10 years and has read every one of the 400 letters that have been sent to the shrine, including 60 in the last six months.

"The joy is immense," he said. "When you have faith you can move mountains."

Brother Lawrence said he knows there are people who are skeptical about the powers of such holy relics, and the powder's mystery probably will not work on those who do not have faith.

"Faith is a gift from God," he said. "We who have been baptized have to be open to the Spirit. We need for our faith to be alive and that will enrich us."

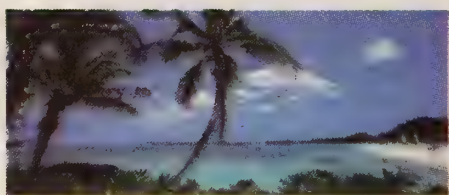
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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 9

## Perspectives

Christmas surprises; holidays  
at their best; Father Dietzen  
response to prayer question

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## To find the fullness of Christ

*Document reminds  
Catholics of duty,  
right to share Gospel  
with others*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — When Catholics fulfill their right and duty to share their faith with others, they are not engaging in proselytism or showing contempt for the beliefs of others, said a new document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sharing the Christian faith with the hope that another may accept it is a command given by Christ to his followers and is a natural result of wanting others to share something special, said the "Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization."

Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, presented the document at a Dec. 14 Vatican press conference.

See DOCTRINE, page 6

## Providing for the future of the church

*Catholic Heritage  
Society honors members*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A silver ornament in the shape of a pine tree hangs on a Christmas tree, with the words "Catholic Heritage Society" and the shield of the Diocese of Charlotte engraved on one side.

See HERITAGE, page 13

## Rejoice, for 'the Lord is near'



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Mary and Joseph kneel at the crib of the infant Christ in this detail of an icon from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The Dec. 25 Christmas feast commemorates the birth of Christ. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 13 in 2008.

*Pope says joy of  
Christmas season  
comes from Jesus'  
presence*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Consecrating a new parish church, blessing figurines of the baby Jesus and reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI said the joy of the season comes from knowing Jesus is present among people and can work through them.

The pope began Dec. 16 by blessing Rome's new Our Lady of the Rosary Church, sprinkling the building with holy water, filling its corners with incense smoke and

See CHRISTMAS, page 7

## MORE COVERAGE

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celebrate Christmas in diocese  
PAGE 15 | Christmas columns

## Traditional celebration

*Extraordinary form of Mass to be offered in diocese*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

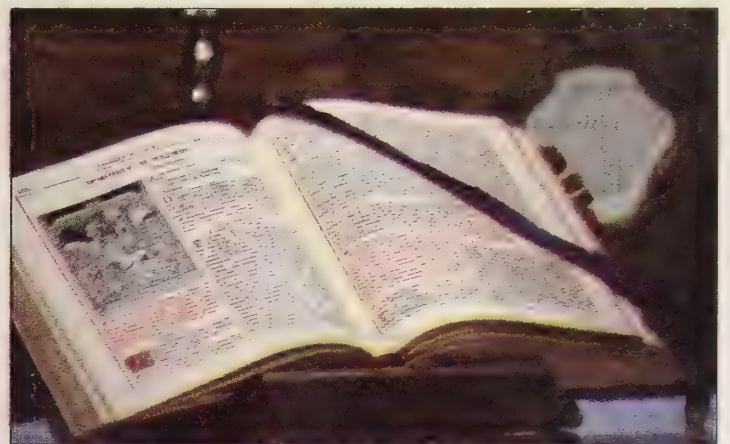
CHARLOTTE — Older Catholics wanting to re-experience the Catholic Mass as they remember it pre-1962, or young people curious about the "old Mass" will soon be able to attend such Masses in various churches throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

In July 2007, in the long-awaited and much-debated document 'Summorum Pontificum,' the pope relaxed

restrictions on the use of the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

The pope said that Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal should be made available in every church where groups of the faithful desire it. The Mass from the Roman Missal, in use since 1970, remains the ordinary form of the Mass,

See MASS, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

A Lectionary is seen during celebration of the extraordinary form of the Mass on Palm Sunday at San Gregorio dei Muratori in Rome April 1. The Diocese of Charlotte is training priests to celebrate the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

## Around the Diocese

*Our Lady of Guadalupe  
celebrations in churches*

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## Culture Watch

*Books about black Catholics;  
God and 'Google-generation'*

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## Faces of the frozen

*Plains states struggle to  
recover from ice storm*

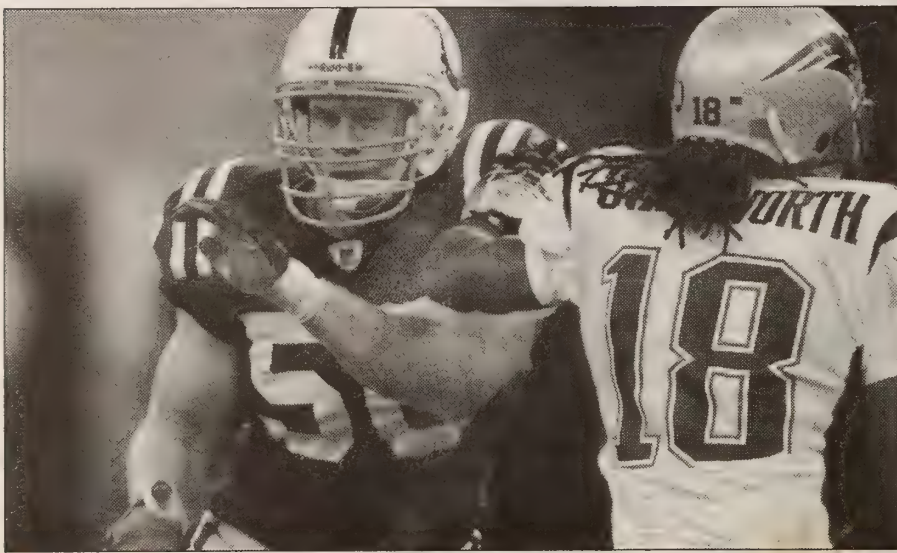
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## GOD ON THE GRIDIRON



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Indianapolis Colts linebacker Rocky Boiman (left) fights off a block by New England Patriots wide receiver Donte Stallworth during the teams' Nov. 4 game at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. Boiman, a Catholic, said his Catholic education instilled in him the drive to excel as a way of showing gratitude for the blessings of his athletic talents.

## Faith helps football players on, off the field

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — After beating the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI in February, the Indianapolis Colts stormed to another strong start, winning their first seven games of the 2007-08 season. Even with a faith-filled head coach like Tony Dungy, it might have been easy for players on the team to think they are invincible.

But the players know better. And consecutive losses to the New England Patriots and the San Diego Chargers helped bring that reality into perspective, as have serious injuries suffered by some of the team's star players.

Father Peter Gallagher, volunteer chaplain of the Colts, said coping with injuries is an opportunity for football players to grow closer to Christ.

"If we can't associate even those difficult things in our lives with Christ's experience of those same things, then we're really not fully trusting in his message and in his presence in our lives," he said.

Linebacker Rocky Boiman and former Colt Keith O'Neil have experienced the effects of injuries this season. Both have relied on their Catholic faith to keep them grounded through the many twists and turns of their football careers.

Although injuries make his profession a tenuous one, Boiman said they aren't part of his mind-set.

"I never try to focus on them because you get negative thoughts in your mind," he said. "And whatever happens, happens. Football or not, I know I'm going to be fine in life. I know I'd have another calling in life."

Being confident and striving for excellence despite the risks are principles instilled in Boiman at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and reinforced at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"You always strive to be the best person and everything you can be," Boiman said. "I think that's something that Notre Dame always preached, in the classroom and outside the classroom. I think it was definitely something that helped shape who I am."

He added, "To those who have been given much, much is expected. I try to live up to that."

But success doesn't always come easily or stay around for long. O'Neil was on top of the football world last February as a reserve linebacker for the world champion Colts. But a series of lingering injuries contributed to his being cut from the team Aug. 26 — his 27th birthday.

As difficult as this was for O'Neil, it's been a part of his life from the very beginning — literally. O'Neil's father was cut from the New England Patriots on the day that Keith was born in 1980.

Such coincidences might have led O'Neil to think God was playing a cruel joke. But he doesn't view it that way.

"I kind of liked it," O'Neil said. "It's something between my father and God and my birthday. I kind of embraced that, knowing that my father got cut on the day I was born. Maybe I was supposed to play in the NFL because of that."

O'Neil's family ties go beyond football and extend to his faith.

"I grew up in a Catholic family that went to Mass every Sunday and had prayer at night," he said. "It was a very close-knit family who turned to God and to Jesus in times of need."

O'Neil hasn't been back on the field yet. But he hopes to play in the NFL again and has received calls from some interested teams.

"But if I can't (get back to playing), we just believe that it's in God's hands and we'll make the most of it," he said.

## Pro-life official praises Senate bill aimed to help pregnant women

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. bishops' pro-life official gave high marks to a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate in December that would provide resources and support to pregnant women.

"The bill will empower pregnant women to make healthy choices for themselves and their children, born and unborn," said Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life of America, the group that helped craft the legislation, said it is designed to reduce the number of abortions by aiding women who feel they have no other option.

The Pregnant Women's Support Act mirrors nearly identical legislation introduced in the House earlier in 2007.

The measure "is truly a common-ground initiative to reduce the number of abortions in the United States,"

said McQuade Dec. 14, noting the bill includes "vital provisions supporting pregnant and parenting university students, a population particularly at risk for considering abortion."

The act would ensure that pregnant women are not denied coverage by insurance companies; establish a toll-free number for resources during pregnancy and after birth; and provide parenting education in maternity group homes.

It also would provide qualified new mothers with free home visits by registered nurses, and codify the current regulation allowing states to provide Children's Health Insurance Program coverage to unborn children and their mothers.

The bill also encourages adoption by expanding adoption-credit and adoption-assistance programs.

McQuade said the legislation gives Congress "a long-overdue opportunity to help make abortion rare."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit [www.catholicscripturestudy.com](http://www.catholicscripturestudy.com) for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. Confession will be available beginning at 2 p.m. For more information call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral will host the *47th Annual Christmas Dinner* for those who would otherwise be without Christmas

celebrations. The free dinner will be held in the St. Patrick School cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. This dinner is for those who, because of financial need, lack of family or travel, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation is provided for those who need it, and the dinner includes entertainment by volunteers and small gifts. Meals will also be delivered to those unable to attend. For reservations or transportation, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 18. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon Streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

DENVER — *The Blanketeers* of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail [nsskee@hotmail.com](mailto:nsskee@hotmail.com) or [hikwan@lexcominc.net](mailto:hikwan@lexcominc.net).

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Papal nuncio satisfied with progress after Vatican-Israeli meetings

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The papal nuncio to Israel said he was satisfied with the outcome of two days of Vatican-Israeli meetings on taxation issues, social security and the status of church personnel, although no final agreement was reached.

"This meeting was not meant to be a conclusion. This is a process of ongoing meetings," said Archbishop Antonio Franco, papal nuncio.

"These are all difficult issues. Of course it is always a bit frustrating when you don't reach a 100 percent solution, but overall I am satisfied. Since last year there has been considerable progress," he said.

He said he had sensed a "spirit and a position" and a "political will" to find a solution.

"It is not easy for us or for them," he said.

Negotiations on the issues resumed

last year after a long hiatus, and the nuncio said that, over time, agreements had been reached on several issues. The issues yet to be resolved are the "most sensitive," he said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Aryeh Mekel said the Dec. 12-13 meetings were intense and no one left the room. The director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Aaron Abramovich, headed the Israeli delegation.

"Agreements were not met on the two core issues," Mekel said. "It is complicated but we made some progress. We presented some compromises."

Archbishop Franco said church officials had to be confident.

"We can find a solution and agreement on the most delicate issues. We have to be (hopeful) and pray," he said. "To (reach) a small achievement is also an achievement."

## Vatican says al-Qaida criticism of pope shows fear of dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said recent criticism of Pope Benedict XVI by an al-Qaida leader reflected extremist fears of interreligious dialogue.

Al-Qaida's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, said in a videotape that the pope had offended Muslims and that Saudi Arabian King Abdullah Aziz should not have met with the pontiff in November.

It was the first meeting between a pope and a reigning Saudi king.

Asked about al-Zawahri's comments, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said Dec. 18 that the papal meeting with the Saudi Arabian leader and the ongoing dialogue between the Vatican and Muslim scholars "is a positive fact for the

entire Muslim world."

"The fact that these voices that explicitly want to dialogue and work for peace have a growing importance in Islam is evidently something that worries those who don't want dialogue," the Vatican spokesman said.

Father Lombardi said al-Zawahri's negative reference to Pope Benedict "is not surprising, nor does it particularly worry us."

He said he thought the remarks should not be given great weight.

In October, 138 Muslim experts wrote a letter to the pope asking for new dialogue efforts based on shared values. In response, the pope invited a varied group of Muslim scholars to meet with him and Vatican experts sometime next year.

## A special Christmas visit



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, pose for a photo with members of the Little Sisters of the Poor during a visit to their home for the poor and elderly in Washington Dec. 18. Mother Benedict Armstrong, superior of the Jeanne Jugan Residence, and Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl led the president and first lady around the residence. They stopped in the "book nook," where the president and his wife donated two books. Afterward the president and first lady greeted residents in the cafe and offered them Christmas cookies. The president wished everyone a "Merry Christmas," and told one resident that he reads the Bible every day. Later the president and first lady proceeded to the auditorium where sisters, residents and volunteers were making Christmas cards for U.S. troops.

## U.N. vote against death penalty seen as victory

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Dec. 18 vote by the U.N. General Assembly to ratify a resolution calling for a moratorium on executions "with a view to abolishing the death penalty" was hailed as a "victory for the culture of life" by a Catholic activist opposed to capital punishment.

Although the resolution is not binding on U.N. member states, the vote has strong implications, according to Mario Maraziti, spokesman for the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community and head of its campaign against the death penalty.

The resolution — approved

104-54, with 29 abstentions — states that "there is no conclusive evidence of the death penalty's deterrent value and that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the death penalty's implementation is irreversible and irreparable."

Maraziti said a vote in favor of the moratorium signifies capital punishment is not just a judicial matter for individual countries but a public issue that "concerns human rights," places capital punishment under a "higher moral and justice standard respectful of human life" and accelerates the process of abolishing the death penalty in more countries.

### NOTICE TO READERS

Due to the Christmas holiday, The Catholic News & Herald will not publish next week. Our next issue will be Jan. 4, 2008.

We wish all of our readers a very merry and blessed Christmas, and a happy New Year.

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

GREENSBORO — *Catholic Daughters of the Americas*, Court Greensboro 1200 will have a meeting on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady's Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. For more information, contact Lawrence Kirwan at (336) 292-2776. Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Our *Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

FRANKLIN — The *Respect for Life* group meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tasteringer at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church social hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Primacy of Christ (Scotus)*" Jan. 13, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 25 — 12 a.m.  
Christmas midnight Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Jan. 2 — 4 p.m.  
Reception for Pastoral Center employees  
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Jan. 3 — 6 p.m.  
Christmas reception for priests  
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Jan. 5 — 5 p.m.  
Mass for Knights of Columbus convention  
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory



## Ushering the faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Augustinian Father John Denny, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, is pictured with children from the parish faith formation program after a children's Mass Dec. 2. The students participated in the Mass, filling the roles usually reserved by adults, from serving as ushers to providing the music. Afterward, the children and their families attended a holiday party in the parish hall.

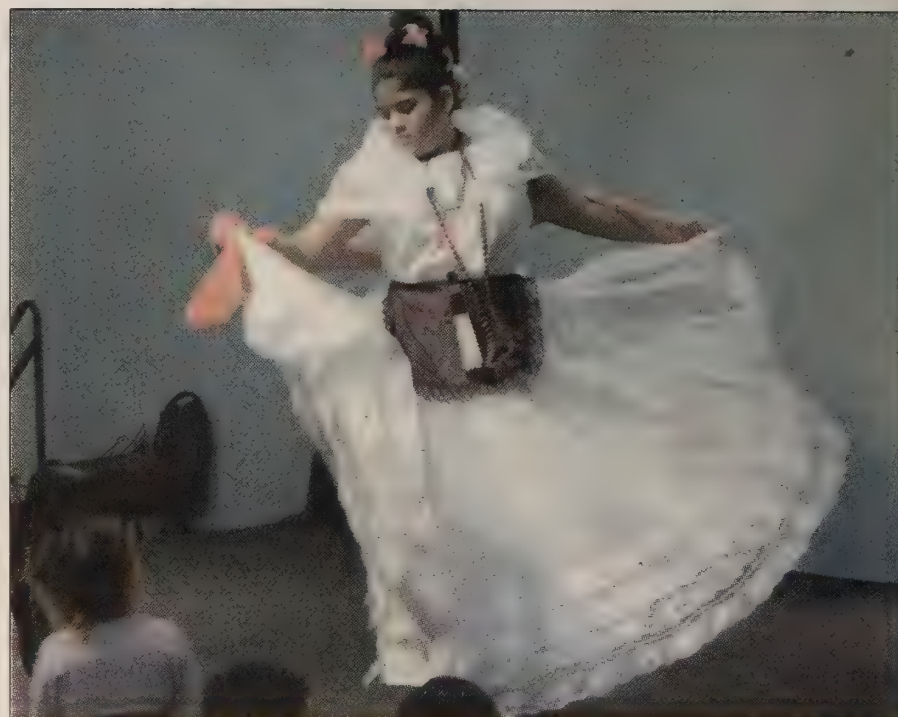
## Smiles and spaghetti



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRED HOGAN

People enjoy the first Italian ethnic dinner at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Nov. 10. Nearly 130 people attended the dinner, sponsored and prepared by members and wives of Knights of Columbus Council 8509. Oblate Father Joseph Tustin, pastor of Holy Cross Church, led the prayer before dinner, which raised more than \$860 for local charities. Pictured (from left): Donna and Bob Ganong, Mary Mulvaney, and Diana and Richard Phillips.

## Honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in the diocese



COURTESY PHOTO

A girl performs a dance during a parish celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Therese Church in Mooresville Dec. 12. Approximately 600 people attended the Mass and reception.

The feast day commemorates a brown-skinned Virgin Mary's miraculous apparition to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in December 1531. She left her image on his "tilma," or cloak. For 476 years her image has been a symbol of unity, peace, compassion and hope for people around the world. The apparitions are credited with the conversion to Catholicism of millions of indigenous people of Central and South America.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Luis Osorio, parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, is pictured with third-graders from St. Gabriel School dressed as St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe during a Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12. The student body attended the Mass, during which students processed carrying flags representing the United States and Latin American countries. Fourth-grader Kevin Anderson Johnson carried an icon of Our Lady that he drew.

Students pictured are (from left): Michael Armah, Jonathan Huth, Hank Borda, Patrick Foster, Caitlyn Hogg, Rachel Eisert, Kelsie Roper, Brenna McBride.

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**Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of January:**

Rev. Vincent Erb	2005
Rev. Msgr. Eugene H. Livelsberger	1987
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Newman	1981
Rev. Arthur J. Racette	1975
Rev. Tom Stott	2005

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FROM THE COVER



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Father James Pereda celebrates the extraordinary form of the Mass at St. Pius X Chapel in Uniondale, N.Y., July 8. The Diocese of Charlotte is training priests to celebrate the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

# Extraordinary form of Mass to be offered in Diocese of Charlotte

MASS, from page 1

while celebration according to the 1962 missal is the extraordinary form.

"The main benefit of Pope Benedict's document is two-fold," Bishop Peter J. Jugis said. "It recognizes the beauty and legitimacy of the extraordinary form of the Mass and promotes the unity of the faithful because, as Pope Benedict has noted, there are people devoted to this form of the Mass."

"Both forms of the Mass are legitimate means of worship; we don't want to hurt or leave people behind because of their devotion to earlier liturgical forms," said Bishop Jugis.

"We've had a good response from our priests wanting to celebrate using the 1962 missal," said Bishop Jugis. "However, many of them need to learn the rubrics and details of the 1962 missal."

Therefore, 14 priests from the Diocese of Charlotte participated in a five-day training session on the 1962 missal in Hickory Dec 17-21. They studied the rituals of the missal and the prayers, which are recited in Latin.

But diocesan priests won't be the only ones brushing up on their Latin.

"Catechesis will be necessary for parishioners, as well, to fully appreciate the Mass of the 1962 missal," said Bishop Jugis. "The major differences between the ordinary and extraordinary forms of the Mass you'll notice are the priests' orientation during the liturgy and

the use of Latin prayers."

In the extraordinary form, the priest and the people face the same direction in worship, as the priest leads his flock in prayer. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, a church's altar was placed against the wall at the back of the sanctuary. During the consecration of the Eucharist, the priest therefore faced away from the congregation.

The Second Vatican Council decreed that a church's altar should be placed in a central location in the sanctuary, allowing a priest to face the congregation during the consecration.

Bishop Jugis said that a priest celebrating the extraordinary form of the Mass will now stand in front of the altar, between it and the congregation.

The extraordinary form of the Mass will be offered in certain churches beginning in 2008. Catholics interested in attending a Mass should contact the office of their vicar forane — a priest who coordinates pastoral activities among groups of churches — to find out Mass times and locations.


"It will be up to each individual priest to determine when he is comfortable celebrating the Mass," the bishop.

Since his ordination four years ago, the bishop said he has received letters from all areas of the diocese requesting the extraordinary form of the Mass.

"These are individuals who are grateful that Pope Benedict XVI has encouraged the wider use of the 1962 missal," he said. "Going forward, Pope Benedict said we're not going to leave anyone behind. We're all going forward together."

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- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area — plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
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<b>Asheville</b> Father Wilbur Thomas Basilica of St. Lawrence (828) 252-6042	<b>Gastonia</b> Father Roger Arnsperger St. Michael Church (704) 867-6212
<b>Boone</b> Father John Hanic St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church (336) 838-5562	<b>Greensboro</b> Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio St. Pius X Church (336) 272-4681
<b>Hickory</b> Father Kenneth Whittington St. Charles Borromeo Church (828) 437-3108	
<b>Salisbury</b> Father John Putnam Sacred Heart Church (704) 633-0591	
<b>Smoky Mountain</b> Father George Kloster St. William Church (828) 837-2000	
<b>Winston-Salem</b> Father Michael Buttner Holy Family Church (336) 778-0600	

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# Document: Catholics have duty, right to share Gospel

DOCTRINE, from page 1

In addition to reminding Catholics of their obligation to share the Gospel with others, the document harshly criticized Catholics who believe that every religion offers salvation, and it defended Catholics in some Orthodox countries from charges of proselytism when they welcome into the Catholic Church people who freely ask to join.

"For a long time, the reason for evangelization has not been clear to many among the Catholic faithful," the document said.

"It is even stated that the claim to have received the gift of the fullness of God's revelation masks an attitude of intolerance and (is) a danger to peace," it said.

In reality, the document said, when Christians share their faith with another they are responding to the right and the need the other has to hear the truth and to accept or reject it.

Cardinal Levada said the document, which already was being prepared when Pope Benedict XVI was still prefect of the congregation, was the result of a growing "confusion about whether Catholics should give testimony about their faith in Christ," particularly to people who already belong to another religion.

Respect for another, he said, absolutely forbids any use of "coercion or tactics unworthy of the Gospel," but it also means sharing one's blessings, the greatest of which is the good news of salvation in Christ.

## Growing 'seeds of truth'

Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias, prefect of the Congregation for Evangelization and a member of the doctrinal congregation, also participated in the document's presentation and spoke about the need to balance respect for other religions with the desire to lead others to faith in Christ.

When talking with members of other

"It is our task to help the seeds of truth grow so that they find their fullness in Christ."

— Cardinal Ivan Dias

religious traditions, "Christians must try to discover the action of the Holy Spirit, that is, the 'seeds of truth,' as the Second Vatican Council called them," that are present in those religions, he said.

At the same time, one must try "to lead them, without any superiority complex, to a full understanding of the truth in Jesus Christ."

"Even if the various non-Christian religions possess seeds of truth planted in them by the Holy Spirit and the people who follow them may be saved, that does not mean that the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ is irrelevant," Cardinal Dias said.

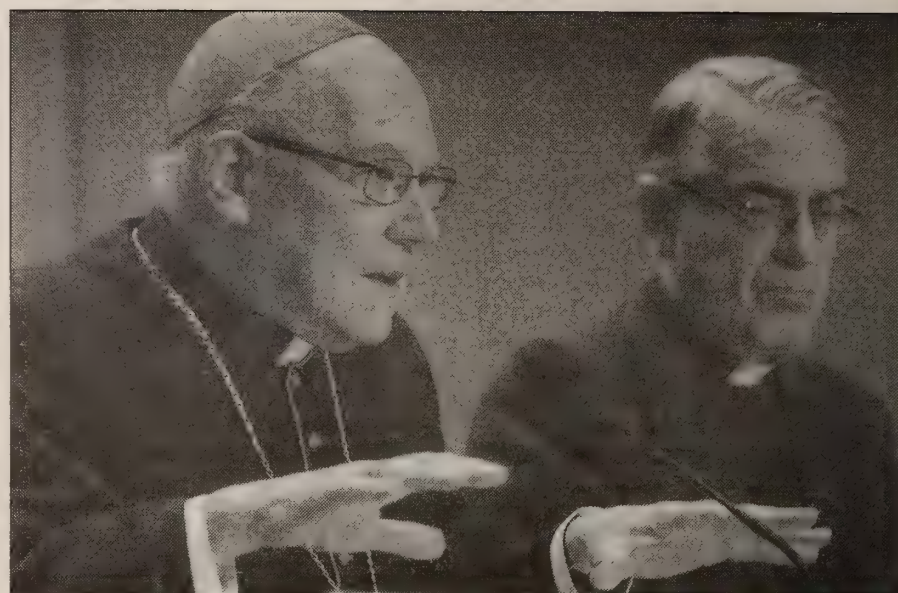
"It is our task to help the seeds of truth grow so that they find their fullness in Christ," he said.

Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and also a member of the doctrinal congregation, told reporters, "The sharing of our Catholic faith with others who do not yet know Christ should be regarded as a work of love, provided that it is done with full respect for their human dignity and freedom."

"Indeed, if a Christian did not try to spread the Gospel by sharing the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ with others, we could suspect that Christian either of lack of total conviction of the faith or of selfishness and laziness in not wanting to share the full and abundant means of salvation with his fellow human beings," Cardinal Arinze said.

## The universal mission

Archbishop Angelo Amato, secretary of the doctrinal congregation, said the document is a practical follow-up to the 2000 document "Dominus Iesus," on



CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, speaks at a Vatican press conference at which he presented "Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization" Dec. 14. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, is seen at right.

the uniqueness of Christ and universal salvation in him.

Despite the 2000 document's insistence on the importance of proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ alone, he said, "there still exists a coolness toward missionary activity" in many parts of the church.

In addition, he said, the document is an affirmation of the right and duty of Catholics to share their faith with others who ask to know more, whether those asking belong to other religions or to other Christian communities.

He said that when non-Catholics are free to minister to their members in predominantly Catholic countries, it only makes sense that the Catholic Church would have the same right to offer pastoral care to Catholics in predominantly non-Catholic countries.

Besides China, where all religion is restricted, and some Muslim countries where Christians cannot openly practice their faith, the issue also involved some parts of the former Soviet Union, where the Russian Orthodox Church has accused the Catholic Church of

proselytism, or trying to convince members of the traditionally Orthodox population to become Catholic.

The document said: "The mission of the church is universal and is not restricted to specific regions of the earth. Evangelization, however, is undertaken differently according to the different situations in which it occurs."

Asked specifically about the Russian Orthodox claims, Cardinal Levada said, "Especially in a country like Russia where there were long years of atheistic communism, one must respect the sensitivity of the Orthodox, who are concerned about rekindling Christianity in the life of their people."

While some evangelical groups have launched proselytism campaigns in Russia, he said, the Catholic Church is there to offer pastoral care to Catholics.

"We do not proselytize, but it can happen that someone has an encounter with the Catholic faith and wants to join the Catholic Church," the cardinal said.

In such situations, the Catholic Church must respect the individual's conscience and help him or her to follow it.

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## Important Upcoming Pro-Life Events for the Diocese of Charlotte

**NC Right to Life Prayer Breakfast and  
March for Life/Raleigh** — Saturday, January 12  
Call 1-800-392-6275 or visit: [ncrtl.org](http://ncrtl.org).



**March for Life/Charlotte** —  
Friday, January 18 — 12 noon.  
Gather at parking lot across from the Catholic  
Pastoral Center, W. Palmer and S. Church St.  
Questions? Call Tina: 704-846-7361

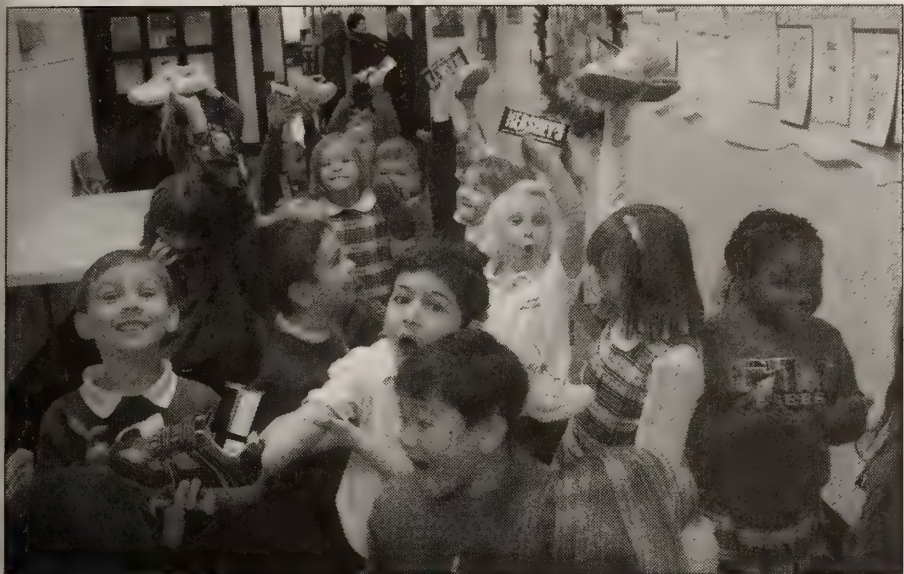


**March for Life/Washington, D.C.** —  
Tuesday, January 22  
Mass at 10:30 am, National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception, Bishop Peter J. Jugis.  
Please call the diocesan Respect Life Office  
(704-370-3229) or [mnadol@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mnadol@charlottediocese.org)  
for information, or if your parish is planning on  
taking a bus.

For information, call Maggi Nadol,  
Diocesan Respect Life Office — 704-370-3229.



## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



COURTESY PHOTO

First-graders at St. Michael School in Gastonia delight as they find treats from St. Nick on Dec. 6, the feast day of St. Nicholas. Students placed their shoes in the hallway as they attended Mass; upon return, they found the goodies left for them.

## Christmas joy comes from Jesus' presence, says pope

CHRISTMAS, from page 1

anointing its altar with oil.

While the third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday, includes a special invitation to rejoice, he said, "in truth, all of Advent is a call to joy because 'the Lord is coming,' because he comes to save us."

Preparing for Christmas, the pope said, the Mass readings "constantly repeat that we must wake from the sleep of habit and mediocrity; we must abandon sadness and discouragement; we must strengthen our hearts because the Lord is near."

Pope Benedict told the parishioners that all their hard work and sacrifice in building the church and worrying over every detail should be a symbol of the sacrifice and care with which they prepare their hearts for the Lord's coming and their lives for living as Christians.

Returning to the Vatican for the midday recitation of the Angelus, the pope told people in St. Peter's Square that the joy of Advent and Christmas comes from knowing that God, in Jesus Christ, became one of us.

"Christian joy arises from this certainty: God is near, he is with me, he is with us in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, as a friend and faithful spouse," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said the fact that Christian joy remains despite sorrow and struggle can be seen in the life of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had long periods of feeling that God had abandoned her, but she continued to smile and to take God's love to the poor and the dying.

"Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who place themselves at the service of the small and the poor. In those who love that way, God takes up residence and the soul rejoices," he said.

"If, instead, one makes happiness an idol, he takes the wrong path, and the joy of which Jesus speaks is truly difficult to find," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict blessed statues of the baby Jesus that children brought to the square in preparation for placing them in Nativity scenes at home and at school.

While he wished the children a Merry Christmas, he asked their parents, priests and teachers "to collaborate with enthusiasm for the Christian education of the little ones."



COURTESY PHOTO

An advent wreath, created and hung by parishioners, is pictured in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Dec. 6. The wreath, crafted with ribbon, handmade candles and donated trees, has been put together by parishioners annually for 14 years.

## Children build faith through Bethlehem Village

NEWTON — First-century Bethlehem recently came alive in Newton. Children in the faith formation program at St. Joseph Church took part in a Bethlehem Village group program this month.

Bethlehem Village was one of the Holy Land group adventures typically used in vacation Bible school programs, but parish faith formation director Kris Mulligan adapted the format for her class for the Advent season.

The 200 children participating in the program recreated Bethlehem in the time of Christ's birth and got hands-on experience with first-century Bethlehem foods, crafts, jobs and games.

Parish catechists and youth group members played the roles of shopkeepers, actors, song leaders and census takers. The children were separated into groups representing the 12 tribes of Israel to learn and teach each other about their respective tribes.

They also studied the Sabbath traditions in which the Holy Family would have participated.

The main points emphasized that they were to be prepared for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

"The children are given 'chores' to do each week to enforce that week's

point, such as to pray, to do a random act of kindness, to tell a friend about how much God loves them, and so on," said Mulligan.

"This is a great program that gives children the opportunity to think about what it might have really been like in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago and this helps to build their faith," said Father James Collins, pastor of St. Joseph Church.

Mulligan said the program was exciting not only for the children, but also for the teens and adults involved "who are not just hearing about the birth of Jesus in class but are getting to experience the tastes, smells, sounds and traditions that surrounded the birth of our Messiah."

"The Bethlehem Village really makes us think about the culture at the time of Jesus — what people wore, how they lived," said Terri Schell, a youth group volunteer.

"It made me think about how different things were then and how much more work it took to do the things that we take for granted today, such as making clothes, grinding food — just simple everyday things," said Schell.

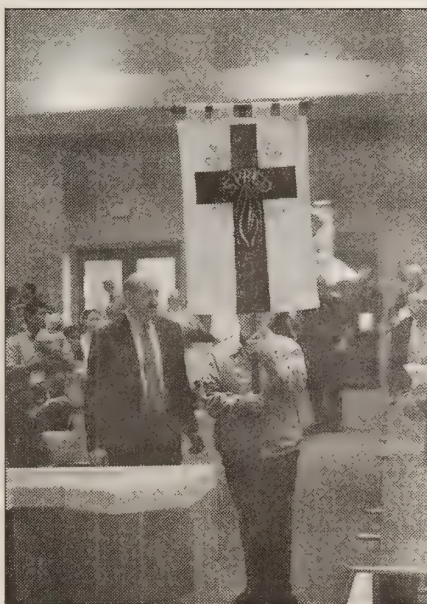
"I can't think of a better way to prepare ourselves in this season of Advent," said Mulligan.



COURTESY PHOTO

Youth group members at St. Joseph Church in Newton serve food to children participating in the parish faith formation's Bethlehem Village group program Dec. 16.

## SPREDing the Gospel message at Advent



COURTESY PHOTO

Kevin Robinson and other members of the SPRED (Special Religious Development) program at St. Matthew Church carry banners to the altar during the SPRED Advent Mass celebrated by Father Patrick Toole, parochial vicar, Dec. 2.

Since the parish adopted the SPRED program four years ago, persons with developmental disabilities have formed a small faith community and now participate more fully in the life of the parish.

SPRED members and their families participated as lectors and liturgical ministers during the Mass.

"Being able to celebrate the Eucharist for the members of our SPRED community and for our other parish members who were present was a beautiful experience for me as a new priest," said Father Toole.

"The St. Matthew SPRED program is an incredible witness to the Gospel message. It is our special friends who are the greatest gifts that have been given to our church," he said.



## Teaching about the season



COURTESY PHOTO

*Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, leads the fourth annual Advent retreat and luncheon for faculty and staff of St. Pius X School Dec. 7.*

*"Monsignor affirmed our roles as adults and teachers who affirm children and provide for them where they can belong and feel safe," said teacher Lorraine Malphurs.*

*The retreat, which provided reflection, renewal and fellowship, was sponsored by the school's spiritual committee.*



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistant Principal Shirley Kinlaw shares the story of Christ's birth with kindergarten students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Dec. 17.

## Portraying Christmas



COURTESY PHOTO

Students perform during the sixth annual Christmas pageant at St. Mark School in Huntersville Dec. 14. More than 75 students danced, sang and acted in the pageant, which featured Christmas carols, a re-enactment of the Nativity and Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church, in his acting debut as "Grandfather." More than 300 people attended the event, sponsored by the school religious education program, during which canned goods were collected for Catholic Social Services.

## Christmas in the streets



COURTESY PHOTO

The fourth degree color corps of the Knights of Columbus Great Smoky Mountain Assembly 3001 carry a banner asking spectators to "Keep Christ in Christmas" during the Christmas parade in Maggie Valley Dec. 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem march in the annual Christmas parade in Lewisville Dec. 9. Participating in the parade were the school's JV cheerleaders, Cub Scout Pack 721 and Brownie Troop 391.



COURTESY PHOTO

Varsity cheerleaders and the school mascot from St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem are pictured during the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Winston-Salem Dec. 1. The cheerleaders were on hand to perform a special Christmas dance as part of the pre-lighting entertainment. But once the event organizers saw the routine, they invited the cheerleaders and mascot on stage for the grand finale after the tree was lit.



# Reaching out to others in need at Christmastime



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point are pictured with gifts they collected and delivered to the Pregnancy Care Center of High Point Dec. 17. As part of an outreach project, each class from kindergarten to eighth grade was assigned items to collect, such as diapers, blankets, baby wipes, socks and stuffed animals. Three carloads of items were collected and delivered. Pictured are Alyssa Walker, Lauren Cushing, Thomas Gooding and Kenzie Evans.

Below: Pictured are the more than 250 gifts and toys collected by students of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem for the local SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) center. The gifts were delivered to the center Dec. 5. Students also baked cookies for the Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Winston-Salem to be distributed to patients' families during the holidays.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Tracy Pratt-Dixon, chair of the parish Christmas Giving Tree program, and Dayne Auten, program volunteer, are pictured Dec. 14 during the sorting of donated items at St. Therese Church in Mooresville. Parishioners donated 1,400 gifts to the annual program, sponsored by the parish community life commission, which provided food and gifts to 60 needy families Dec. 15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Pure Fashion model program give a manicure to a resident of the Sunrise assisted living facility in Charlotte Dec. 9.

Pure Fashion is a faith-based program that encourages teenagers to live, act and dress in accordance with their dignity as children of God. Through an 8-month model training program, Pure Fashion models learn the virtue of modesty and purity. They work with community leaders and clergy to promote these values, and take part in a citywide fashion show featuring clothing that is pretty but not provocative. As part of an outreach project, several models spent the afternoon at Sunrise, offering manicures to the residents, singing Christmas carols, decorating their doors and sharing cookies and cider.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem are pictured Dec. 14 with gifts they purchased with the \$564 raised from a class bake sale in November. The students wrapped the gifts and delivered them to St. Leo the Great Church to be used in Christmas gift and meal baskets for 45 needy families as part of a parish outreach program.



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Gary Gelo of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro is pictured Dec. 11 with Brownie Troop 696, which is comprised of second- and third-grade students. The girls brought in toys for the Santa's Workshop Toy Drive, which provides toys for needy children in Guilford County.



COURTESY PHOTO

Genevieve Wiedeman, a fourth-grader at Asheville Catholic School, examines a gift available during the school's annual Christmas Shoppe Nov. 27.

The Christmas Shoppe, which ran Nov. 25-28, allowed students to purchase gifts for loved ones while helping people beyond their community. The shop offered gifts from Ten Thousand Villages, an organization that helps artisans in poor countries around the world; Heifer International, a charitable organization that provides livestock to the poor; and free-trade coffee.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two books worth reading about black Catholics

REVIEWED BY  
CAROLE GREENE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Sharon C. Knecht's "Oblate Sisters of Providence: A Pictorial History" is an irresistible read, boasting remarkable photographs of the sisters and their young students from 1879 to 2007.

This book is the story of "the first sustained order of women religious of African descent in the world."

It tells of trials, togetherness and deep faith that began in the spring of 1828 when four Catholic women of African descent formed a women's religious order "expressly for the purpose of educating young girls of color."

Knecht blends photographs of those first Oblates with those of current members whose motherhouse has been in Baltimore since the 1930s. Of approximately 16,000 historical photographs in the Oblates' archives dating from the 1850s, more than 250 were selected for publication.

"The images record Oblate-related and secular life in at least 20 states, Cuba, several Caribbean Islands, Central America and Europe," Knecht says.

The book is organized by subjects, rather than chronologically. The majority of the photographs range from the 1880s through the 1960s and speak broadly of the Oblates' ministry and the countless people whose lives they impacted.

Camille Cosby, a major benefactor of the sisters along with husband Bill Cosby, remembers in the foreword her days attending one of the sisters' schools, St. Cyprian's in Washington, with her brother, Guy A. Hanks Jr.

"The sisters want their students to be educated, but they don't want educated fools," Cosby writes. "The sisters love tranquility for introspection and prayer, but they know that particular circumstances invoke loud activism."

Among the photographs are those of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, the Oblates' founder and a candidate for sainthood, and a painting of the co-

founder, Sulpician Father James Mary Hector Nicholas Joubert.

He is described as having "stood boldly against his many contemporaries who were holding that blacks had neither souls to be saved nor minds to be instructed."

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit: Prayer Services From the Black Catholic Church" is another significant liturgical contribution by and pertaining to black Catholics.

Jesuit Father Joseph Brown, with the support of Franciscan Father Fernand Cheri III, compiled the prayer services in response to Pope Paul VI's exhortation to the African church to offer its "gift of blackness" to the world, one that, according to the U.S. black bishops, should be reflected in liturgies that are "authentically black" yet "truly Catholic."

Father Brown, a professor in the black American studies program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, says the "explosion of the black Renaissance of the 1960s shook the foundations" of what blacks thought they knew both as Americans and as Catholics.

When brought into the church after the Second Vatican Council, black sacred songs "captured the determined among us who knew how to be Catholic and who were discovering just how rich and vast was the heritage of blackness welling up everywhere."

Most of the prayer services featured in the book, said Father Brown, were selected because "something special happened" during them — "people claimed a power from sharing in" each service.

Among the prayer services offered in "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" are those for Black History Month, Good Friday, reconciliation and healing, celebrating the saints, anointing for evangelization, youth retreats, funeral services, dedications of children, commitments to religious or priestly vocations, general intercessions, blessing the home, women's and men's services, and honoring Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, for how she modeled women's discipleship.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 30, 2007

Dec. 30, *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14  
Psalm 128:1-5
- 2) Colossians 3:12-21  
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

## Path to holiness takes patience, compassion

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was 16, I shared a car with my 19-year-old sister. We split the cost of the car payment and insurance down the middle.

The plan was that we also would have equal use of the vehicle. She was older and had a job around the corner; I was younger and had a girlfriend who lived 30 minutes away. Naturally this caused a lot of problems.

Nothing in my life with four other siblings could compare with the fights we had about the use of that car. Doors would slam; very un-Christian words would fly; and feelings were shredded.

One day, after a typical display of mutual selfishness, I slammed the door to my room and said to no one in particular: "Why won't she even try?!"

A few minutes later after the steam stopped billowing from my ears, I heard a small voice in my head say: "Are you trying?"

God in his fashion had challenged

my self-righteousness — and I lost. When I came out of my room, my sister was in the bathroom. I wrote her a note that simply said: "I'll try if you will."

From that point on I don't think we had another fight.

On the feast of the Holy Family, the church gives us a passage from St. Paul that calls us not just to put up with each other but to bear with one another in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

It was only when God's prompting toward these graces broke through my bitter, angry resentment of my sister that peace came to our relationship.

Being a family of holiness takes work, prayer, submission and selfless behavior. It is not unlike the family who had a virgin teenager say yes to God; a fiancé, who initially wanted to cut and run but submitted to God's plan; and a son who had no idea what lay ahead of him, but when his hour came took the cup his Father handed to him.

One of the steps to holiness is to take our eyes off of ourselves and put them on those we love. It is this kind of action that paves the road to being a holy family.

### Questions:

What are some ways we can "bear with one another" when the other is hard to get along with? Do you have a story that shows how you or someone you know has grown in holiness?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 23-29

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Tuesday (Nativity of the Lord)**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Wednesday (St. Stephen)**, Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Thursday (St. John)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8; **Friday (Holy Innocents)**, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Saturday (St. Thomas Becket)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 30-JAN. 5

**Sunday (The Holy Family)**, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23; **Monday (St. Sylvester I)**, 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (Mary, Mother of God)**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Wednesday (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzen)**, 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Thursday (Most Holy Name of Jesus)**, 1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34; **Friday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)**, 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42; **Saturday (St. John Neumann)**, 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51.

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## Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Father Philip Scarcella (pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption Church) and Deacon Carlos Medina (St. Patrick Cathedral) cordially invite you to join them on a 10-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain, May 1-10, 2008.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila and

Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid.

Price from Charlotte: \$2799 (or \$2699 before January 27)

For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965,

Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)





## 'Water Horse' offers intense encounter



CNS PHOTO BY SONY PICTURES

Alex Etel stars in "The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep," an engaging but, by the end, surprisingly intense fantasy adventure. Set during World War II, a forlorn Scottish boy (Etel) discovers an egg in the waters of the local loch that hatches a rapidly growing dinosaur-like creature which he eventually identifies as the "Water Horse" spoken of in Celtic legends. The screen version of the 1990 children's book, like its title character, starts off unthreateningly but gets steadily more ominous as it moves toward a turbulent climax that would likely frighten most young children.

Fantasy violence, one crass expression and one profanity; acceptable for less sensitive younger viewers. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## Vatican's clergy congregation unveils Web site with important texts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's Congregation for Clergy unveiled a Web site offering the Bible in nine languages, the Code of Canon Law and commentary on Sunday liturgy.

The congregation's new site, [www.bibliaclerus.org](http://www.bibliaclerus.org), is part of its [www.clerus.org](http://www.clerus.org) Web site that also has increased the number of resources available in its electronic library, said a Dec. 8 letter by the congregation's prefect, Cardinal Claudio Hummes.

While the Web sites are open to everyone, they are geared toward serving the world's priests, deacons and catechists, the letter said.

The resources on the new Web site

already had been available from the congregation on a CD and had been distributed to 140,000 clergy around the world. People accessing the new site will be able to read Scripture along with its interpretation in light of tradition, the teachings of the church and papal commentaries.

Biblical texts are available in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, English, Italian, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese.

The English text comes from the New American Bible, produced by members of the Catholic Biblical Association of America under the patronage of the U.S. bishops' Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

## God and the 'Google-generation'

### Seminarians minister with MySpace and more

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — An ocean away from family and friends, some U.S. seminarians at the Pontifical North American College in Rome are bridging the divide with online communities and digital means of communication such as Skype, instant messaging, Facebook, MySpace and more.

But while it may have begun as simple e-mails and Web log, or blog, entries meant to keep loved ones in touch, their notes from Rome to home have blossomed into a whole new way these students preparing for the priesthood can share their spiritual journey with the rest of the world.

"It's a great witness when we share our stories, our experiences in (the) seminary" that include "our hopes, our joys, our fears, our anxieties about" the journey toward the priesthood, said Johnny Burns, 27, of Milwaukee.

Burns, Jacob Bertrand of San Diego and Michael Bruno of Brooklyn, N.Y., took a break from their busy schedules as second-year theology students to speak with Catholic News Service about how some seminarians from today's so-called "Google generation" are helping other people find God and the church through the Internet.

"There's a lot of junk on the Internet and we have to fix it," said Bertrand, 23, who seems the savviest of the group with a blog, accounts on two social networking sites on the Web — MySpace and Facebook — and plans for broadcasting practice homilies on YouTube, a video-sharing Web site.

"We need to integrate ourselves into these online communities and in a sense baptize the way these things work," he said.

"Everyone's opinion gets expressed and published, but nobody's opinion necessarily has any truth to it," the California native said.

Well-formed Catholics and church leaders have a golden opportunity to move into the World Wide Web like any new mission territory and point people to the truth and to Christ, the seminarians said.

Bruno, 22, said one of the things he loves most about the networking power of Facebook is "I put down I am a Mets fan, that I follow Notre Dame football" as well as his favorite books and movies.

Other young people may be drawn to his profile because they have a shared interest in the New York Mets baseball team or because they went to the same high school, but then they see that he is also a seminarian studying for the priesthood in Rome.

Very few people actually know a seminarian, and meeting one online and discovering he has many of the same interests as other young people can wipe away some preconceived notions about the kind of person who is drawn to a priestly or religious vocation, the three men said. Being a presence in these online communities almost acts as a sort of accidental advertising for the church.

On the one hand, some people may be

drawn to vent their frustrations or anger about the church, but Burns said, "on the flip side it's also easier for a young man or young woman who's considering a vocation to the priestly or religious life to send a quick question or two or even enter into a relationship of counseling with a priest or a seminarian who can give some advice on the discernment process."

He said his answering questions and engaging people in reflection in these "electronic communities" have provided him with valuable opportunities to experience ministry work.

"We are ministering to these people in many ways, both in sharing our stories, in helping them along their way answering their questions, and providing them another avenue for their own personal faith exploration," the Milwaukee denizen said.

But while the three men see that they are helping people learn more about the church and Christ, they also see it helps strengthen their own love for God and priestly calling.

Bruno said often he is asked by curious online visitors what led to his decision to become a priest.

He tells them it wasn't something "abnormal like a lightning bolt coming down and throwing you on the floor" or a loud voice calling your name.

The reasons, he said, were rooted in the people who raised, loved and taught him throughout life.

"The vocation to be a priest is one that is nourished first in the family, but also in all your relationships, your friends, teachers and parish priests," he said.

Bruno said relationships are crucial and are "the nourishment of one's vocation." Now because of Facebook, instant messaging and Skype, he is able "to keep those relationships alive and vibrant" so that they continue to sustain him both as a person and as a future priest.

"So many people have the idea that the life of a priest is a lonely life, that it is without relationships. Well, that couldn't be farther from the truth," Bruno said.

On the one hand these young men are sent away from their families and friends to complete their studies and formation, but in the end, Bruno said, "we're also sent back to them to minister to them, to be a comfort, to be a guide, to be a priest to them."

All of them emphasized the aim of their online presence was not to point people to their site or to create a perfect or popular Christian community; it is to be a signpost of sorts to show people the way back to God and to a real physical community that involves human interaction, face to face.

Burns said online communities are "a helpful means of evangelization and can be a very successful tool for the church if, at the end of the day, it's bringing people to the sacraments and especially to the Mass."

"You cannot experience Jesus Christ on the Internet no matter what you do," Bertrand said; it has to be a "personal experience of Christ," and "they won't get that on the online community."

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6 p.m. - Family Mass  
Midnight - Bishop Peter Jugis

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NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES  
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## A hoot of a project



COURTESY PHOTO

Faith Little, a student at St. Ann School in Charlotte, examines an owl talon Dec. 11. Employees from the Carolina Raptor Center visited the school to teach students in transitional kindergarten through fifth-grade about the birds rescued by the center. Following the visit, fourth- and fifth-graders dissected owl pellets to study how owl digestive systems work.

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY



St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic director of music ministry. The candidate must have knowledge and experience with traditional and contemporary Catholic Music/Liturgy. Master's Degree in Music is preferred; minimum of BA in Music required. For more information, see our website at [www.stpaulcc.org](http://www.stpaulcc.org). Send resume and references to [sbarnes@stpaulcc.org](mailto:sbarnes@stpaulcc.org). Resumes will be accepted until December 30, 2007 or until the position is filled.



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## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).

## Natural Family Planning Program Director



The Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services is seeking a director for the Natural Family Planning (NFP) program. Position requires teacher certification in a nationally recognized NFP method, ability to travel, and openness to working with all NFP methods. Full-time employment with benefits will be offered.

For more information on this position, visit [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org). To be considered for this position, please submit a resume by January

31, 2008 to: Gerard A. Carter

Catholic Social Services

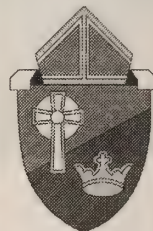
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## MANAGER – FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for the position: Manager-Financial Systems. The position is responsible for major upgrades to diocesan financial systems. This involves obtaining a detailed understanding of current financial systems and the desired enhancements. The position is responsible for identifying alternative methodologies; evaluation against objectives, and the selection and implementation of the solution. We plan to transition the position to diocesan Controller in the future.

Qualified candidates will hold a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance; have their CPA, MBA or master's in accounting; and have a minimum of three years' experience in accounting or auditing at a supervisory/in-charge level, preferably with not-for-profit and financial systems experience.



Interested persons should submit a letter of interest, resume and salary history to: CFO, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 by January 31, 2008. The Diocese of Charlotte is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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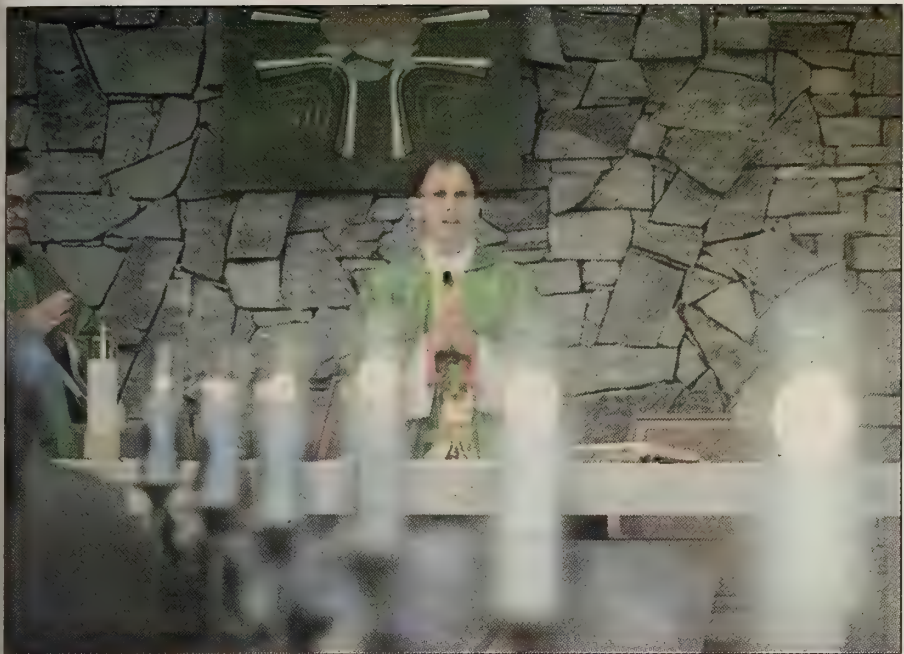
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COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates a Mass honoring Catholic Heritage Society members at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Nov. 18. The society recognizes those individuals who have designated an entity of the Catholic Church as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

# Ensuring the future church

HERITAGE, from page 1

The ornament symbolizes not only the Christmas season, but also the generosity of the many people who have pledged to ensure the future of the diocese.

Hundreds of such ornaments were given to members of the Catholic Heritage Society by the diocesan Development Office in appreciation of their planned gifts to the diocese.

"The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church," said Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the diocese.

Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to

make a planned gift to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, the diocese or any of its churches, schools, agencies or organizations.

Society members were honored at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Nov. 18. Following the Mass, members were invited to a reception and dinner with Bishop Jugis.

There are currently more than 850 society members, some of whom will leave their gifts to the foundation, which has more than \$17.7 million in assets. Most of the endowments in the foundation are designated for churches.

According to Smith, for each society member, there are seven more people who have designated the church as a beneficiary in their estate plans, but have not yet informed the development office.

"It makes me happy to be able to bequeath a legacy gift to the Catholic Church, God's family on earth," said Nancy West, a member of the Catholic Heritage Society and a parishioner at St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

"This is a way of returning thanks to God, giver of all gifts," she said.

Smith said planned giving can be a painless method of giving.

"You don't have to be person of great wealth to give a planned gift to the church," she said. "Many members of the Catholic Heritage Society are people of ordinary means."

"Whether you are single, married, raising a family or planning for your retirement years, it is important to reflect on the kind of legacy you would like to leave for the future," said Smith.

*Staff Writer Karen A. Evans is a proud member of the Catholic Heritage Society. Contact her by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## 'From Many, One Family of God'

Upcoming week a chance to show Christ's love

Recently churches in the Diocese of Charlotte received a packet of materials from the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration regarding the upcoming 27th annual National Migration Week Jan. 6-12, 2008. The theme is "From Many, One Family of God."

In an accompanying letter, Salt Lake City Bishop John C. Wester, committee chairman, said the theme "reminds us that though we come from many cultures and places, we are all part of one human family and members of the one Body of Christ."

"Sadly, rather than embracing newcomers to our land whose circumstances have compelled them to seek new lives among us, we too often respond in fear and harbor attitudes of resentment and suspicion."

Leaders of the U.S. bishop's Justice for Immigrants campaign also have encouraged dioceses to put forth efforts to put civility into the national immigration debate, which is becoming more hostile as the election year approaches.

Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and the diocesan liaison for the Justice for Immigrants campaign, joins with the diocesan Hispanic ministry and peace and justice offices in inviting Catholics to reflect on the church's positions on immigration. We encourage you to study the immigration situation in our diocese with an open mind.

During the Christmas season, we as Catholics remember Jesus' birth as a poor one, away from the home of his parents and unwanted by the citizens of Bethlehem.

In Christ's description of the Last Judgment, we learn that when we ignore the poor and the stranger, we ignore Christ himself. Christ says: "Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of

### Guest Column

FRANCISCAN  
SISTER ANDREA  
INKROTT  
GUEST COLUMNIST



these least ones, you did not do for me." (Mt. 25:44-45)

We also hear the oft repeated quote from the Old Testament: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you, have the same love for him as for yourself, for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 14:34).

Packet materials sent to churches include petitions for the liturgy, prayer cards and guides for reflection in the family as well as in schools and faith formation classes.

As Bishop Wester concludes in his letter, "When we set aside our concerns and share our resources, God's blessings extend to all of us. United as one family of God, let us commit ourselves during this year's observance of National Migration Week to work together to create a truly welcoming community for migrants and strive to achieve justice for them at all levels of our American society. Then they can take their proper place alongside us at the Lord's banquet that He has prepared for all of His family."

Sister Inkrott is director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3269. National Migration Week resources are online at [www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.shtml).

## 'For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory ...'

Q. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory now and forever" is the ending of the Lord's Prayer for most Protestant faiths, but I am unable to find it as part of the Our Father as given by Christ in the Gospels or in the King James Version of the Bible.

I realize we have a similar prayer now as part of Mass, close to the Our Father. Where did that prayer come from? Is it biblical? (Connecticut)

A. That doxology (prayer of praise) concluding the Lord's Prayer is found very early in Christian liturgy. It goes back to apostolic times.

Jewish prayers and liturgical worship greatly influenced the gradual development of Christian worship. The doxology we're speaking of entered Christian worship that way. Similar prayer formulas had been common in Hebrew worship for centuries. Eventually, long before the printing press was invented and monks copied the Bible by hand, one or more of these scribes began adding these words after the Lord's Prayer in Matthew (6:9-13) as a gloss — a marginal interpretation or pious note.

As time went on, when it became difficult to distinguish these glosses from the original wording, many of them found their way into the Bible text itself. This was the situation when the King James Authorized English translation was published in 1611.

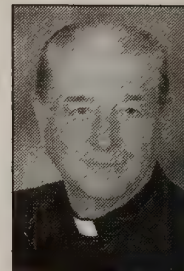
The doxology is, in fact, in the King James translation, though the scholarly (Protestant) "Interpreter's Bible" notes that it was added in later manuscripts to round out the Lord's Prayer liturgically.

Since the King James Version of Scripture was in general use among Protestant denominations for nearly 300 years, the addition became part of what is often referred to as the Protestant Our Father.

As scholarship developed, it became clear that this attachment was not really part of Scripture but was added

### Question Corner

FATHER JAMES  
DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



later. Thus, Bibles translated under Protestant auspices after the King James edition generally eliminate that sentence, mentioning it at most in a footnote as an unauthentic addition to the Bible text.

In 1990 the "New King James Version" of the Bible was published, reflecting some of the profound changes in the English language since 1611. Interestingly, in their desire to remain as faithful as possible to the original, the translators retained the doxology, making it perhaps the only more modern translation of the Gospels to do so.

As you observe, Catholics continue the ancient liturgical tradition even today by proclaiming this prayer of praise at Mass shortly after the Our Father.

Obviously, there is nothing wrong with the prayer, whenever it may be used. The Eastern Catholic churches and Catholics in other cultures around the world still include it regularly as a conclusion to the Lord's Prayer.

Years ago this column recommended the book "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers." Many readers praised it and used it in their homes.

The U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy just published a revised and greatly enlarged edition, containing prayers for numerous occasions, Scripture passages and blessings that members of families can minister to each other.

The book is distributed by the USCCB publishing office. Visit [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org), or call (800) 235-8722.

## Catholic and Lutherans: One religion?

It was with great joy that I read of the reaffirmation of the Catholic-Lutheran covenant ("Two religions, one goal — unity," Dec. 7). I was appalled, however, to see "two religions, one goal" in the headline. It is my understanding that Christianity is the religion and that both Catholics and Lutherans are Christians. I appreciate how theologically difficult it is for the Catholic Church to apply "denomination" to the Catholic Church or to apply the word "church" to most other Christian bodies. One might have been ecumenically more sensitive and more accurate to use "two faith communities, one goal" as the headline.

As a sociologist of religion in western North Carolina for 40 years, I have detected trends in our vocabulary that are problematic. In the 1950s we spoke accurately of "Protestant, Catholic and Jew." Today new realities call for new terminology, but recent usage often makes things worse rather than better.

Frequently I see or hear reference to "Christians, Muslims and Catholics," "our Catholic religion" and "Christian and Catholic" cooperation regarding abortion. I recommend an editorial review of policies related to the choice of words and terms by which we refer to ourselves and others.

— Dr. Kenneth Sanchagrin  
Mars Hill

Regarding "Two religions, one goal — unity," I have to ask: What does this propose ultimately to do?

If you strip everything away, either Lutherans are to become Catholic, Catholics are to become Lutheran, or we are to mash together into something that is neither.

We must not forget that Christ founded one church, and Martin Luther founded a heretical sect. Sure, we have some things in common, but it is the differences that count. All this "unity" talk sounds nice, but at the end of the day we are different. And differences do count.

For the past 40 years there has been

all of this unity talk, but unless the goal is for all the non-Catholics to convert to the one church, it is a big waste of time.

— Emmanuel Kafant  
Winston-Salem

In 1991, a few Lutheran churches in western North Carolina wanted to evangelize high school youth more effectively. They heard that the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Catholic retreat movement worked well in the Midwest. I, along with other Lutheran church members, began Lutheran TEC 16 years ago in Hickory. Today Lutheran TEC continues to grow here.

Most of the theology between Catholic and Lutherans is the same. I am happy that the Lutheran church chose a Catholic retreat program for our teenagers. Two months ago, I took a small group of Lutheran Christians to the perpetual adoration chapel in St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. They knelt down and prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

— Michael An  
Charlotte

## Letters to the Editor

### Thankful for 'milk powder'

I would like to thank you for running the article and picture on Bethlehem's Milk Grotto ("The power of 'milk powder,'" Dec. 14).

Our culture is so saturated in sexual images that unfortunately it is difficult for many to see the beauty in the biological functions of the human body. Sadly, some people may feel squeamish with the article or see the picture. But Our Blessed Mother did use her own body to nourish the Christ child and she did so because that is the way God designed it.

Regardless of feeding method, the bond between mother and child is a strong and beautiful connection. To see Mary depicted in such a way should inspire us not only to more deeply honor her for her care of Christ, but also to thank our Lord for designing our human bodies in such a magnificent way.

— Kelly Schiffano  
Charlotte



# Stand up — God's grace may be knocking at the door

*Editor's note: This column first ran Dec. 17, 2004.*

The child was 2 years old when he lost his ability to walk. He had been walking since 11 months, but one day he began to wobble and fell down, unable to get up.

The child was diagnosed with Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease, which is, in simple terms, the unexplained interruption of blood to the head of the femur (thighbone). The result is degeneration and deformity of the thighbone area. When the doctors showed the X-rays, the parents saw blackness — nothingness — where their child's thighbone and hips were supposed to meet.

The wobble was probably the result of inflammation of the joint lining, resulting in a painful limp developed suddenly over a few hours. The only course of action was to establish a new blood supply to the affected areas.

The child's legs were placed in metal braces with a rod to hold them apart and motionless while the damage repaired itself hopefully over the next 18 to 24 months.

Although much about the disease was unknown at the time, the doctors were optimistic because the child was diagnosed early; if treated early and correctly, 60-70 percent of children with the disease recover with no long-term disability. The only thing the parents and family could do was pray their only child would recover.

The boy remained in the braces for two years, unable to stand or walk. At 4 years of age, he still crawled around on the floor, dragging his metal-encased, useless legs behind him.

At Christmas, he and his parents gathered with their family at the grandparents' home in Brooklyn, N.Y. A dozen people were around the table, enjoying a feast prepared by the grandmother, who sat at the head of the table.

The grandmother had always been religious; always active in her church,

always saying countless prayers for her family and friends. She was sitting quietly, seemingly looking down at her plate, when there were three loud, distinct knocks at the front door.

Nobody seemed to hear them, except the child's mother. She glanced at her mother-in-law, who, still looking down, nodded in silent satisfaction. The child's mother was confused — no one else had reacted to the knocks — so she leaned across the table.

"I think there's someone at the door," she whispered. "Do you want me to answer it?"

The grandmother looked up. "No," she said softly. "I'll tell you about it later."

When the mother and grandmother were finally alone, the grandmother explained she had just finished a novena — a nine-day series of prayers — to St. Martin de Porres. The saint, the grandmother said, had just given her his response.

"Your son will be healed within six months," the grandmother said.

The mother wasn't sure what to think, but couldn't deny hearing the knocks.

X-rays of the child were taken several months later. The parents rejoiced when they saw that the hip areas — formerly black holes — were replaced with bone. Within six months of the knocks on the door, the child was out of his braces.

He was not only standing on his own, but walking, running. He became one of the fastest runners at his school.

That Christmas miracle happened 30 years ago. That was my grandmother, my mother. I was the child.

My grandmother, Katherine Murray, died in 1987. They say she died peacefully, sitting in a chair while praying the rosary. The paramedics said they had never seen anyone so at peace.

Unfortunately I didn't learn about St. Martin de Porres' involvement in my condition until after my grandmother's death. The saint, born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, became a lay brother at the Dominican friary at Lima where he

## Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR



served, among other duties, over the infirmary and became known for his tender care of the sick and for his spectacular, often miraculous cures (including raising the dead).

St. Martin had a great desire to go on foreign missions but instead made a martyr out of his body, devoting himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In turn, God endowed him with many wondrous gifts, including aerial flights and bilocation.

Since moving to the South, I've heard many people scoff at the notion of "praying to saints" and intercessory prayers. One Baptist, who didn't know my story, told me Catholics wasted their time praying to dead saints who were "no better than anybody else." Perhaps. And perhaps the metal braces clamped to my legs would have worked without St. Martin's intervention.

But two people heard those knocks on the door, and they believed. I don't need any more convincing than that. But whenever I'm in doubt, all I have to do is stand up. The power of heaven always seems a little bit closer when I do.

It's a pity there are so many people without faith, who don't or refuse to know the effect a simple prayer can have, or the grace our Lord is willing to give. God does listen to our prayers. But do we always listen when he speaks to us?

We had better start listening — we don't want to miss the knocking at the door. You never know who it might be.

I don't run quite like I used to, but before I gather with my family this Christmas, I think I'll go for a quick sprint around the block. I know my grandmother will be smiling down as I dash about. And while I'm out there, I think I'll have some grateful words for a certain Dominican saint and offer some prayers for those I love.

## Life would be dark without Christ's birth, pope says

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without the birth of Christ who brought the light of truth to the world, life would be dark and without direction, Pope Benedict XVI said at his last general audience before Christmas.

Born in a grotto in Bethlehem, Jesus has "shown the world the light that lights up our life (and) revealed the way that leads to the fullness of our humanity," the pope said Dec. 19, dedicating his talk to "the meaning and value" of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

He said Christians are called to prepare the way for the Lord's coming by creating a dignified setting "not only in our immediate surroundings but above all in our souls."

Sometimes the faith and hope that Christ will bring to the world "unfortunately seem too far removed from everyday life today," he said.

"If the light of God, the light of truth is turned off, life becomes dark and without a compass," Pope Benedict said. "If one does not recognize God became man, what sense is there in celebrating Christmas?"

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

In this Advent season, the church invites us to reflect on Christ's birth and to prepare ourselves, in watchfulness and prayer, for his second coming.

Advent is thus a time of joyful expectation that our hope, and indeed the hopes of all humanity, will find fulfillment in the peace and salvation which only God can give.

"Waiting in joyful hope" for the Lord's coming also means preparing his way and welcoming him as the incarnate Son of God, the truth which gives meaning to every human life.

How important it is, then, to proclaim this mystery in all its saving power: the Son of Mary, born in Bethlehem, is the Light which illumines our life, the Way that leads to human fulfillment.

The Good News of our salvation in Christ must be made known to a world which longs for this message of reconciliation, solidarity and hope. May this Christmas be for everyone a celebration of peace and joy: joy at the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Together with Mary and Joseph, let us contemplate the new-born child lying in the manger. Through the prayers of the Virgin Mother, may we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ the Savior.

A happy Christmas to you and your families!

## Christmas surprises

Be ready to be surprised this Christmas. Be ready to be surprised just as Caesar Augustus, Quirinus, Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and the angels were surprised. And rightly so. They experienced something unusual — the birth of Jesus Christ. Our God is the God of surprises.

We heard Isaiah's readings in the Advent season about the hopes and fears of humankind. There is no surprise there — we will always have hopes and fears as long as we live. The surprise is how well we will handle the hopes and fears coming up in the year 2008.

There will always be war and social and economic uncertainty, and yes, we still advertise happiness and fulfillment through diamond rings, flashy new cars, the latest electronic games and gizmos.

No real surprises there, unless we try to put those before God — then our

lives will head toward an eternal surprise that's not necessarily good.

And it is useless to try and play God — it has never worked before and it will never work in the future.

We will do well if we let God be God in our lives. Just let God be God, because he is always full of surprises.

Let God be your fulfillment, not the latest technological tools, for only he can fill the emptiness in your life; only he can fill your heart with love.

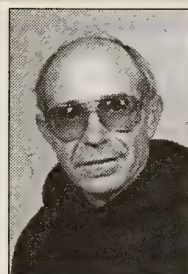
When we let God be God, he will surprise us with real fulfillment and real meaning.

Sometimes in order to be surprised, we must yearn for something good, we must try to reach for the unreachable and dream the impossible. We must take our dreams to the limit, not limit our dreams.

Without longing or yearning, the shepherds would not have looked to

## Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN  
C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



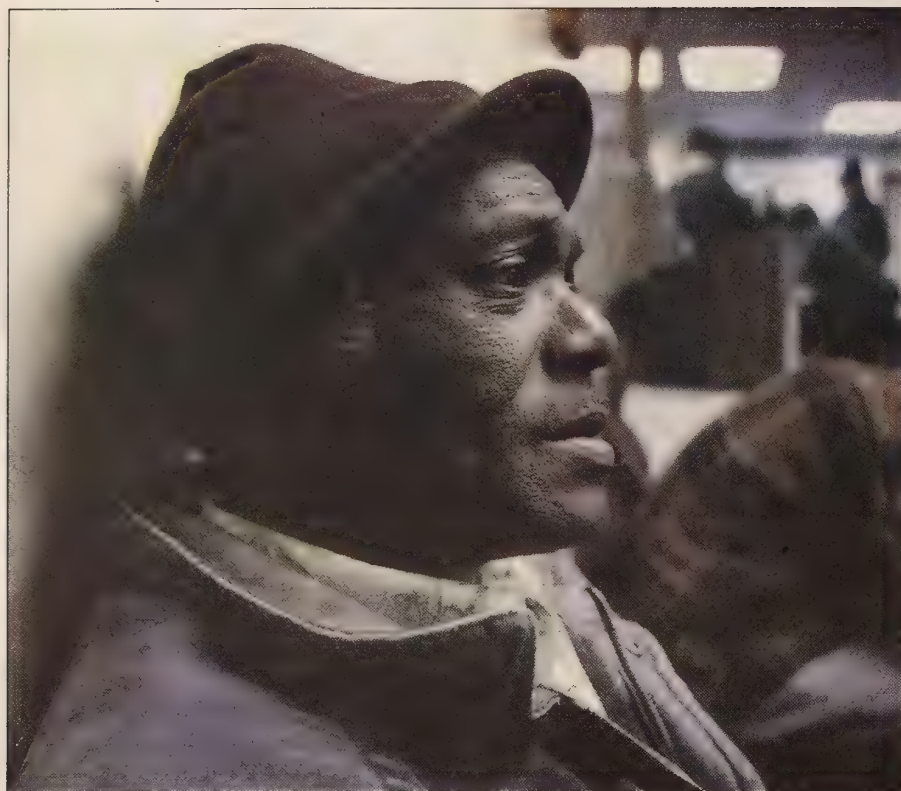
the sky and noticed the angels leading them to Jesus; nor would the magi have wandered so far from home to follow the star leading them to Jesus.

Without longing or yearning, Mary would never have said "yes" to become the Mother of Christ. (What a surprise for her indeed.)

So be ready to be surprised this Christmas. And if you let God be God, you will experience pleasant surprises throughout the coming year.

*Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*





CNS PHOTO BY DAVID CRENSHAW, EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC

Alfred Wright waits at the Catholic Charities food distribution center in Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 17. A massive ice storm that knocked out power to much of the city increased requests for assistance at charitable agencies. Wright is a dialysis patient and had been without power for more than a week. Catholic Charities was serving more than its usual 75 people a day during the emergency situation.

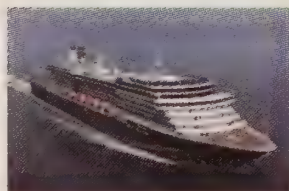
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# Faces of the frozen

Plains states still struggling to recover from devastating ice storm

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As wintry weather bombarded a swath of the United States from the Great Plains to New England over a five-day period, residents of hard-hit Oklahoma were still struggling to rebound from a massive ice storm that paralyzed much of the state Dec. 9.

At the peak of the storm an estimated 348,000 Oklahoma households were without power after the accumulated ice from freezing rains that drenched the state snapped power lines and utility poles.

By Dec. 14 more than 100,000 still had no power in the state.

More than two dozen deaths throughout the Great Plains were attributed to the ice storm, which initially left 1.2 million households in the region without power.

As Oklahomans were coming out of the grip of the icy weather in their state, they girded for an expected two to six inches of snow expected to fall over the Dec. 15-16 weekend.

"We can handle the snow. It's the ice that's the problem," said Ray Dyer, editor of The Sooner Catholic, Oklahoma City's archdiocesan newspaper.

"It's the largest power outage we've had in the state," Dyer said, adding that one parish in the southern part of Oklahoma City was still trying to get its power back.

Apart from power outages, no ice-related damages had been reported in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese through Dec. 12, Dyer said.

But individuals who lost power during the storm faced a far different reality.

Thousands took refuge in the Cox Center, the city's main indoor stadium. There, Catholic Charities staff from the archdiocese worked with other aid agencies such as the Salvation Army and the Red Cross to develop a "one-stop" system for those adversely affected by the ice storm to get them both short- and long-term help, according to Connie Blaney, Catholic Charities' spokeswoman.

The system "was pretty effective a couple of years ago when so many people came from New Orleans on account of Hurricane Katrina," she said.

In trying to help families, Blaney added, aid agencies learned one hard truth: "We found out that FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), in an ice storm, does not give out personal assistance."

"It's more (for) business and nonprofits. So people aren't going to get the personal assistance they might have gotten during a flood or a hurricane," she said.

The headquarters of Catholic Charities itself was not affected by the ice storm.

"We have power at Catholic Charities," Blaney said. "We're close to downtown, about two miles from downtown. A lot of the downtown businesses do not have power."

Other Catholic Charities activities have been delayed somewhat to take care of the pressing needs resulting from the ice storm.

"We adopted 315 families in an adopt-a-family program" before the ice storm, Blaney said.

They were supposed to have had Christmas gifts delivered to them the weekend of the ice storm.

"We'll get those Christmas gifts delivered," she added. "I'm sure we'll get them delivered in the next few days."

Other dioceses in the Plains reported some power problems.

Power outages resulted in production of the Dec. 15 issue of The Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Salina, Kan., to be delayed one day, according to editor Doug Weller.

But the newspaper and its printer have a one-day buffer in the production schedule, so most subscribers were expected to receive their paper on time, Weller added.

Power went out at the cathedral church in Jefferson City, according to Jay Nies, editor of The Catholic Missourian, diocesan newspaper.

Cold weather brought up to a dozen inches of snow to Massachusetts Dec. 13, while surrounding states also got socked with several inches of the white stuff.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

*The Alpha and the Omega  
for 2008: a game plan for  
overcoming toxic thoughts*

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## 2007: A LOOK BACK Immigration, Iraq War named top 2007 stories

*Pope considered top  
newsmaker in annual  
CNS poll*

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The national debate over immigration issues was the top religious news story of 2007 and Pope Benedict XVI was the top newsmaker, according to the annual poll of client editors of Catholic News Service.

Catholic response to the war in Iraq took second place among the 30 news stories on the ballot, while developments in the stem-cell field came in third.

Pope Benedict dominated the newsmakers list, with 20 of the 24 first-place votes cast. U.S. President George W. Bush was a distant second, followed by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

FOR A ROUNDUP OF THE TOP  
RELIGIOUS STORIES OF 2007,  
SEE PAGES 6-7.

## On the path to priesthood



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Deacon Brandon "Brad" Jones assists at the altar during the Liturgy of Ordination to the Diaconate at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Dec. 22, 2007. Deacon Jones will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2008. Also pictured is Father Christopher Roux, priest-secretary to Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 5.

## Defending the 'cradle of life and love'

*Pope Benedict,  
marking new year,  
reiterates support for  
traditional families*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Ushering in the new year, Pope Benedict XVI said attempts to weaken the traditional family inevitably undermine social harmony and world peace.

"The natural family, founded on marriage between a man and a woman, is the cradle of life and love and the first and indispensable teacher of peace," the pope said at a Mass Jan. 1, which the church marks as the World Day of Peace.

The family thus constitutes the primary agency of peace, and attempts to deny or restrict family rights "threaten the very foundations of peace," he said.

Later, at a noon blessing, the pope returned to the theme of the family and what he called its "strict connection" to social peace.

He quoted from his World Peace Day message on the theme "The Human Family, a Community of Peace."

"Whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace," he said.

In his homily, the pope said people should recognize that true peace is not merely the result of human efforts or political agreements.

Above all, he said, peace is a divine gift that people need to continually implore.

## 2007: A LOOK BACK 2007 a year of growth, blessings for diocese

*Churches dedicated, facilities blessed, guidelines  
promulgated by bishop*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2007, but that was far from the only significant highlight of the year.

During 2007 in the diocese, five men were ordained to the priesthood; two churches were

dedicated; four churches were elevated to parish status; a Catholic cemetery was blessed and a church, a school, three priests and a bishop emeritus all celebrated 50th anniversaries.

To commemorate its 35th



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Hundreds of people take part in a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte Sept. 22, 2007, part of the diocese's third annual Eucharistic Congress.

See RECAP, page 8

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**\*\* Back to life of service**  
*Priest cleared of wrongdoing,  
reinstated to ministry*

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**Culture Watch**  
*Priest's account of WWII;  
Web connects faith, stories*

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**An 'hour of need'**  
*Kenyan bishops appeal for  
dialogue to end violence*

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## CRAFTING A CASKET



CNS PHOTO BY SISTER CAROL HOVERMAN, THE WITNESS

Trappist Brother Felix Leja prepares a piece of wood for a casket at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa, in late October. Brother Leja, the first monk designated to make caskets at New Melleray, has made somewhere between 800 and 900 caskets since the venture was officially launched in 2000. He and his co-workers take great care in producing the finest in old-world craftsmanship.

## Iowa Trappists expand casket factory due to increased demand

PEOSTA, Iowa (CNS) — For the craftsmen and artisans at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, a relatively new ministry has expanded into a new state-of-the-art, 40,000-square-foot factory, almost five times larger than their previous facility.

"Because of increasing demands for caskets, we were unable to keep up with production to satisfy demand, so we had to develop a new woodworking facility," said Sam Mulgrew, the operation's general manager.

"It's not a highly automated factory. It has good dust collection, air quality and other features," he said.

In their work, the monks strive to produce burial caskets and urns that reflect their values of integrity, simplicity and reverence for nature. They try to nourish a return to a dignified spirituality of death.

Trappist Brother Felix Leja, the first monk designated to make caskets at New Melleray, has made somewhere between 800 and 900 caskets since the venture was officially launched in 2000.

For him, the focus is on doing the work of God, not on his new surroundings.

"Work is work," he said, noting that the monks know God loves them no matter where they are working.

The Trappists at New Melleray Abbey follow the ancient monastic rule of St. Benedict, striving for simple living through contemplative prayer, community worship and manual labor.

Mulgrew sees the casket-making business as an ideal fit for that lifestyle.

"They consider this work to be a

corporal act of mercy," he said of the monks. "Our casket is a serious product in high demand that has sacramental value to it."

About 30 people work at the factory — 12-15 monks and 15-18 laypeople.

Wood for the caskets and urns comes in part from the monastery's own sustainable forests. The monks own 1,300 acres of forestland — the second largest privately-owned forest in the state of Iowa, according to Mulgrew.

As young monks 55 years ago, some of those now working in the new factory planted the pine trees now used to make caskets.

The new factory, designed for the production of 10-12 caskets per day, includes various workstations for making caskets and urns, staining, attaching lids and handles, adding upholstery, custom-engraving and storing.

In addition, a separate workstation has been designated for those monks who prefer to work uninterrupted, allowing them to be reflective and contemplative on the job.

The Trappists have brokered business relationships with various organizations across the country, including Catholic cemeteries, dioceses and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

With the growing demand for the company's product comes an ongoing sense of urgency to produce more and more caskets and urns.

"We continue to sell more caskets than we're manufacturing," Mulgrew said. "There's a slight grace period there because half our sales are pre-need, but that gap is closing, so we really need to make more caskets."

## Catholic leaders in Pakistan, pope condemn assassination of Bhutto

THRISSUR, India (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Pakistan and Pope Benedict XVI have condemned the assassination at an election rally of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party.

"We condemn this dastardly act. It is a terrible tragedy for Pakistan," said Bishop Anthony Lobo of Islamabad-Rawalpindi, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Pakistan, in a Dec. 27 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Rawalpindi, where Bhutto was assassinated.

Bhutto, 54, and several others were killed Dec. 27 in a suicide attack.

Hundreds of thousands of Bhutto's supporters wept, chanted and paid their last respects at her burial Dec. 28 in the town of Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.

Demonstrators protesting her death in cities and towns throughout the country clashed with police and burned buildings and train stations.

A telegram of condolence from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, described the killing as a "brutal terrorist attack" and said, "The Holy Father expresses sentiments of deep sympathy and spiritual closeness to the members of her family and to the entire Pakistani nation."

"He prays that further violence will be avoided and that every effort will be made to build a climate of respect and trust, which are so necessary if good order is to be maintained in society and if the country's political institutions are to operate effectively," the cardinal said in the message sent Dec. 28 to Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha of Lahore, president of the Pakistani bishops' conference.

In the CNS interview, Bishop Lobo said, "Obviously, this is a setback for democracy."

"The forces that were opposed to it have succeeded this time," he said.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

Eggleston, who became their father's friend and spiritual advisor through letters to him in prison. Producer and director Linda Booker will introduce the film and Meg Eggleston will give a short talk following the showing. The focus of the evening will be on forgiveness and restorative justice. The public is invited to come at 6:45 p.m. in order to begin the documentary promptly at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677 or visit [www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html](http://www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html).

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, parish director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail [teallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:teallfleming@yahoo.com).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Greensboro 1200 will have a meeting on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady's Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. For more information please contact Lawrence Kirwan at (336) 292-2776. Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

HIGH POINT — Free Spanish Classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official expects new level of dialogue with Muslims in 2008

VATICAN CITY (CNS) —The Vatican official in charge of interreligious dialogue said he is confident a new level of dialogue with Muslims will take place in 2008.

"There is good will on both sides," said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

After 138 Muslim scholars sent a letter to Pope Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders in October outlining a proposal for a new dialogue and greater understanding, the pope invited a representative group of the scholars to meet with him at the Vatican.

At the same time, the pope suggested the scholars hold a working session with officials from Cardinal Tauran's office, the Pontifical Institute for Arabic

and Islamic Studies and the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Jordan's Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal, the architect of the Muslim scholars' project, wrote back to the Vatican in December suggesting that representatives meet in February or March to work out the details of the dialogue.

"I am very confident in the outcome of this meeting," Cardinal Tauran told Vatican Radio Dec. 28.

He said he expected the meeting to deal with "the dignity of the human person and his rights, first of all the right to freedom of conscience and religion," with the need for believers to "have an objective knowledge of the religion of the other," and with the need to educate young people in tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.

# Vatican agency names church workers who died for others in 2007

VATICAN CITY (CNS) —From the war-torn lands of Iraq and Sri Lanka to violence-ridden neighborhoods around the world, at least 20 Catholic Church workers were murdered or sacrificed their lives for others in 2007, the Vatican's Fides agency said.

Each year, Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, publishes a list of pastoral workers who died violently.

The 2007 list was released Dec. 29. The Fides report included a priest whose death was found most likely to be self-induced and accidental.

While Fides does not refer to the missionaries as martyrs — technically a term reserved for those the church formally recognizes as having given their lives for the faith — it said it was important to remember their sacrifices and to recognize that "each one of them, in a different way, contributed to the growth of the church in various parts of the world."

The list included Father Ragheed Aziz Ganni and three subdeacons who were shot outside a church in Iraq in June; and Father Nicholaspillai Packiyaranjith, a diocesan priest who worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Mannar, Sri Lanka, and was killed in September when a roadside bomb exploded as he was driving to a refugee camp.

Fides also highlighted the case of Sister Anne Thole, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family, who died in April trying to rescue three patients trapped in a fire in an AIDS clinic in Ratschitz, South Africa.

The Fides' list included 14 priests, the three Iraqi subdeacons, a Marist brother, Sister Thole and a seminarian from the Society of St. Paul.

Besides the four killed in Iraq, two died in Mexico, three died in the Philippines, two died in Colombia, two in Spain, two in South Africa and one each in Brazil, Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda and Sri Lanka.

For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com or hlkwon@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO —The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host a covered dish luncheon at St. Paul the Apostle Church Jan. 23 (snow date Jan. 30) 12-2 p.m. Program will be presented by Jane Hamlin, storyteller. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The family life committee of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, hosts a *Scrapbooking Night* on the second Friday of every month, 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Looking back through our family photo albums can be a form of prayer as we give thanks for the blessings the Lord has provided for us. Adding Scripture and prayers to your family albums is a great way to evangelize to your family and children. For more information, call the office at (828) 327-4558.

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month

at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Primacy of Christ (Scotus)*" Jan. 13, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27 (except Feb. 6), at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Rabbi Andrew Ettin (Judaism) will speak Jan. 9 and Imam Khalid Fattah Griggs (Islam) will speak Jan. 16. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Family support



CNS PHOTO BY ANDREA COMAS, REUTERS

A child holds a cross during a Catholic rally in support of the traditional family in Madrid, Spain, Dec. 30. More than 1.5 million people attended the rally, which was addressed by Pope Benedict XVI via a live video link. "It is worthwhile to work for the family and marriage because it is worthwhile to work for the human being, the most precious being created by God," the pope said from St. Peter's Square. "I invite Christian families to experience the loving presence of the Lord in their lives."

# Ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair received into Catholic Church during private ceremony

LONDON (CNS) — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair became a Catholic during a private ceremony in London. Blair, previously an Anglican, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster.

Blair was sponsored at the Mass of reception by his wife, Cherie, a Catholic. The Dec. 21 Mass, at the cardinal's private residence, was attended by Blair's family and close friends.

Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said Dec. 22 that he was "very glad" to welcome Blair into church.

"For a long time he has been a regular worshipper at Mass with his family and in recent months he has been following a program of formation to prepare for his reception into full communion," the cardinal said.

Blair, 54, served as British prime minister from May 1997 until June 2007.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 7-11  
Annual bishops' retreat  
Palm Beach, Fla.

Jan. 12 - 7:15 a.m.  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Jan. 12 - 1 p.m.  
N.C. Right to Life rally  
Raleigh, N.C.

Jan. 13 - 9 a.m.  
Installation of Father Ricardo Sanchez as pastor  
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe



## Back to a 'life in Christian service'



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Oblate Father Albert Gondek is embraced by a parishioner in the parish hall at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington Dec. 23. Parishioners had just learned Father Gondek was re-instated as pastor.

### Priest cleared of wrongdoing, reinstated to ministry at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

LEXINGTON — A priest who was placed on administrative leave due to an allegation of sexual abuse has been cleared of charges and returned to ministry.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis has reinstated Oblate Father Albert Gondek as pastor Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington. Father Gondek resumed his duties Dec 23, 2007.

"My job is Christian service and leadership," said Father Gondek. "It is a tremendous joy for me to return to my friends at Our Lady of the Rosary parish, and I look forward to finishing my career and my life in Christian service."

Father Gondek and Bishop Jugis met with parishioners after the 10:30 a.m. Mass Dec. 23 to explain the process leading up to the reinstatement. Parishioners were excited and thankful to have their pastor back; some welcomed him with hugs.

The Diocese of Charlotte placed Father Gondek on administrative leave Oct. 12, 2007, under provisions of the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, after receiving the allegation of sexual abuse.

The allegation, made by a 59-year-old Delaware man, involved an incident he said took place 47 years ago at a summer camp in Maryland. Father Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church since 1998, was a seminary student at the time and denied the allegation.

Father Gondek was cleared of any wrongdoing after an investigation by his religious order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and an inquiry by the Diocese of Charlotte's review board.

Bishop Jugis decided to reinstate Father Gondek after reviewing the findings of both investigations.

"It is a great joy to return Father Al to ministry. The Diocese of Charlotte will make every effort to restore Father Gondek's good name and reputation," said Bishop Jugis.

"While this case does not diminish the suffering that sexual abuse causes people in our society, it is proof that the

system in our church works to protect everyone," said the bishop.

At the request of the Oblates, the allegation against Father Gondek was investigated by retired Chief Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan of the Eighth Judicial Circuit/Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Md. Kaplan has no connection to the Oblates, the Diocese of Charlotte, the Catholic Church or any of the parties involved.

Part of Kaplan's investigation included a polygraph examination conducted by Barry Colvert, a forensic polygrapher and former FBI agent. Colvert reported Father Gondek's answers had a high degree of reliability and were "not indicative of deception."

Kaplan's investigation repudiates claims made in an Oct. 12 press conference by Delaware attorney Thomas Neuberger on behalf of the accuser.

The accuser alleged that when he was 12 years old, he was fondled by Father Gondek, then a seminarian, while both were swimming at a summer camp in Maryland in 1960.

The camp did not open until 1961, and Father Gondek was not assigned there until 1962. The investigation and polygraph examination also confirmed Father Gondek's statement that he does not know how to swim.

Kaplan's attempts to interview the accuser in the presence of Neuberger were unsuccessful.

In his report to the Oblates' Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, Kaplan described the allegation as "without basis in fact." The report was later examined by the Diocese of Charlotte's review board, established to review cases of sexual abuse.

"God tests each of us, sometimes in ways we don't understand," said Father Gondek.

"I don't feel that my faith has been tested, but I know I have been tested over these past weeks as a result of these false allegations," he said.

The parish is holding a welcome-back reception for Father Gondek Jan. 6.

## Mass in Milan



COURTESY PHOTO

Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis, is pictured with members of St. James the Greater Church in Concord in the Milan Cathedral Nov. 12 during a parish pilgrimage to Italy. The pilgrims toured Rome, Pompeii, Assisi, Pisa, Florence, Venice, Verona and Milan during the nine-day trip. A highlight of the trip was attending Pope Benedict XVI's weekly general audience at the Vatican.

"Surprisingly, the most poignant moments of the trip for me were during each Mass (celebrated by Father Riquelme)," said parishioner Steve Pattee. "His quiet spirituality during trip, and especially during Mass, was a true blessing for all of us."



**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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# One more step toward the priesthood

*Seminarian ordained to transitional diaconate by Bishop Jugis*

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Sometimes what a mother wants for her children isn't exactly what she gets.

"I wanted a doctor and a lawyer, and I got two priests," JoAnne Jones joked following the Mass celebrating the ordination of her son Brandon "Brad" Jones to the transitional diaconate Dec. 22, 2007.

The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, marked one of the final steps along the circuitous route Deacon Jones took toward becoming a priest.

Deacon Jones and his identical twin brother, Chandler "Chad," were born in Greensboro and grew up outside of Elkin attending a Baptist church. Chad Jones is now a clergyman for the Anglican Province of America.

"My parents have always been completely supportive of my decision to enter the priesthood," Deacon Jones said.

At age 17, Deacon Jones was received into the Catholic Church at St. Stephen Church in Elkin. A few years later, while studying Latin at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Deacon Jones first considered joining the priesthood.

"Father Conrad Kimbrough, who was the pastor at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro, was my mentor and guide," Deacon Jones said. "There are seven or eight of us who entered the seminary because of his encouragement."

Deacon Jones began his studies for the priesthood in 1993 when he entered the Theological College at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Two years later, then-Bishop William G. Curlin assigned him to the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Deacon Jones said meeting Pope John Paul II in 1996 had a profound influence on his discernment.

"There was a palpable presence when he walked into the room," Deacon Jones said. "I'm grateful for this experience — it was the greatest blessing."

In the following years, Deacon Jones considered a vocation with the Dominican order of priests; worked as a Latinist, editing and annotating documents; and earned licentiate degrees in philosophy and theology.

In 2006, he decided to return to the diocesan priesthood track and recently completed his studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania.

"My experiences demonstrate the seriousness with which one must



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Deacon Brad Jones share a laugh following the Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Dec. 22, 2007.

"I look forward to serving the people during this time of rapid growth of Catholicism."

— Deacon Brad Jones

approach the priesthood," Deacon Jones said. "I've been blessed with a plethora of experiences and education."

During the rite of ordination, Bishop Jugis called forth Deacon Jones to make the promise of celibacy and the vow of obedience. The candidate lay prostrate on the floor while the bishop, the concelebrating priests and deacons serving knelt and prayed the litany of the saints.

Following the litany, the bishop laid his hands on Deacon Jones' head and asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon him. Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, and Father Christopher Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, then vested him with the dalmatic and stole.

Deacon Jones has been a parishioner of Father Kowalski's parish for the past several years. Father Davis was a classmate at UNC-Greensboro.

Finally, Deacon Jones knelt before the bishop, who placed the Book of Gospels in his hands. The new deacon then assisted with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Deacons are permitted to preach, to assist priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; to officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and to administer blessings during certain liturgical rites. Transitional deacons are men enrolled in seminaries who intend to be ordained as priests.

Deacon Jones and Deacon Tri Vinh Truong, who was ordained as a transitional deacon in February 2007, will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2008. Until his ordination, Deacon Jones has been assigned to the staff of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Although Deacon Jones doesn't know exactly what the future holds for him, he is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

"This is an exciting time to be Catholic in North Carolina," he said. "I look forward to serving the people during this time of rapid growth of Catholicism."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



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## Ups, downs mark ecumenical, interfaith relations in 2007

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The year 2007 marked a year with some progress for the Catholic Church in its relations with other Christians and in interfaith dialogue, although the year was also beset by some setbacks on the path to unity and understanding.

One positive move, in November, was what Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, called a "real breakthrough" in a new Catholic-Orthodox dialogue document in that the Orthodox were willing to discuss how authority was shared and exercised on a universal level in the early church.

The document was finalized during a meeting in Ravenna, Italy, attended by members of the dialogue commission.

One negative came along with the breakthrough, though: The Russian Orthodox Church delegation to the meeting walked out.

In July, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed that the Catholic Church is the one, true church, even if elements of truth can be found in separated churches and communities. The document said some of the separated Christian communities, such as Protestant communities, should not properly be called "churches" according to Catholic doctrine because of major differences over the ordained priesthood and the Eucharist.

Protestant leaders worldwide voiced dismay over the document, which was published in response to critical reaction given "Dominus Iesus," the doctrinal congregation's 2000 declaration on the "unicity and salvific universality of Jesus Christ and the church."

Also in July, Pope Benedict's apostolic letter to widen access to the Latin-language extraordinary form of the

Mass provoked a sharp reaction among Jews because of an unresolved dispute over anti-Semitic language in the rite's Good Friday liturgy.

While the term "perfidious Jews" was not part of 1962 Tridentine rite authorized for use by the pope, it still contained a prayer for the conversion of Jews that asks God to end "the blindness of that people."

Abraham H. Foxman, U.S. director of the Anti-Defamation League, called the papal decree a "body blow to Catholic-Jewish relations."

Ecumenism remained on the front burner in top church circles. Prior to the November consistory at the Vatican, the world's cardinals and cardinals-to-be met and discussed ecumenism.

Cardinal Kasper said the opportunity to examine ecumenical themes with all the world's cardinals was particularly important because "ecumenism is a mandate from Our Lord. It is not an option, it is an obligation for the church."

In the United States, dialogue continued on many fronts:

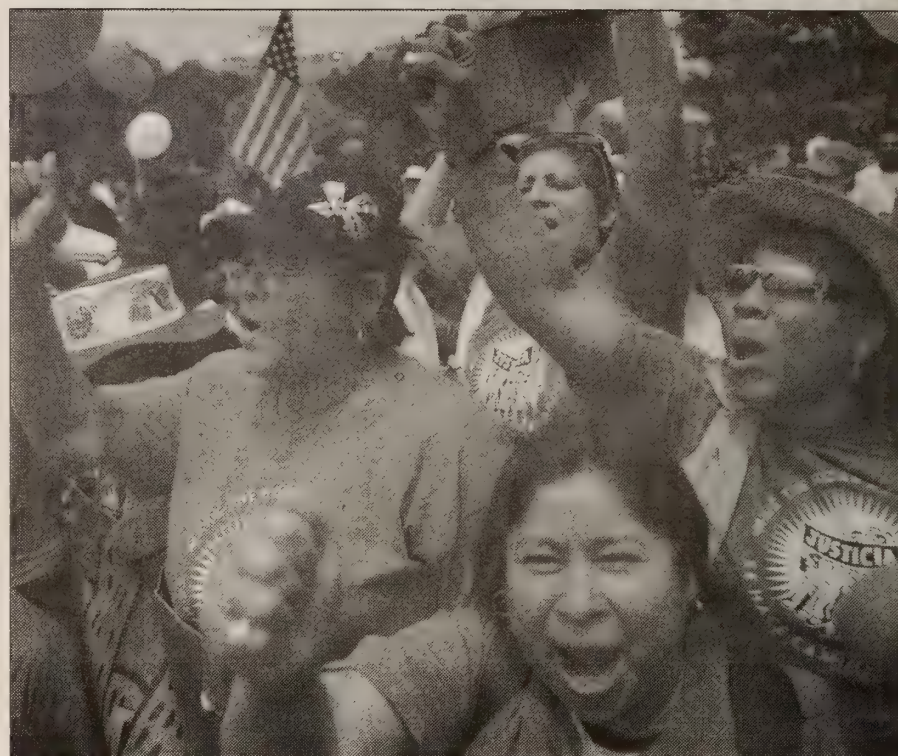
— Catholics and Sikhs discussed spirituality, holiness and the saints during a three-day bilateral retreat in September in Washington.

— In Los Angeles, Catholics and Orthodox met for three days in October in an ongoing dialogue on church structures. A joint committee of Catholic and Orthodox bishops also met in October in St. Augustine, Fla., to discuss evangelization.

— Also in October, an annual dialogue held in Michigan for Catholics and Muslims in the Midwest stressed the need for dialogue.

— Anglicans and Catholics met for three days in October in Alexandria, Va., to discuss the role of Mary and the

## Justice for immigrants starts, stops



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Demonstrators rally outside the White House to call for comprehensive immigration reform June 19, 2007. Despite multiple efforts to bring immigration legislation to a vote in 2007, the U.S. Congress failed to act. Catholic bishops called for just treatment of immigrants in 2007 and joined in nationwide protests against anti-immigrant sentiments.

progress in ecumenical relations.

The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission issued a statement in September saying that "difficulties in the life of the Anglican Communion," particularly the tensions caused by the ordination of openly gay Bishop V. Eugene Robinson of New Hampshire in 2003, the blessing of same-sex unions in British Columbia and the acceptance of women bishops in some Anglican provinces, have forced Anglicans and Catholics to recognize that progress toward full unity will be slower than many of them had hoped.

In the area of Catholic-Muslim relations, Pope Benedict XVI in November invited a group of Muslim scholars to meet with him and with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The dates for the meeting have yet to be set.

The invitation was a response to a letter from 138 Muslim scholars to the pope and other Christian leaders calling for new efforts at Christian-Muslim dialogue based on the shared belief in the existence of one God, in God's love for humanity and in people's obligation to love one another.

## 2007: Beginning of the end for the stem-cell wars?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the years ahead, 2007 may come to be remembered as the beginning of the end for the debate over embryonic versus adult stem cells.

In November, separate studies from teams in Japan and the U.S. showed that human skin cells can be reprogrammed to work as effectively as embryonic stem cells, thus negating the need to destroy embryos in the name of science.

"I do not know if those who have invested money and passed laws precisely to allow this (embryonic stem-cell research) will be able to recognize their error and turn back, but at least the scientists who want to achieve results will go looking where they have been proven to be found," said Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, in a Vatican Radio interview.

Embryos have long been touted by some scientists as the only source of stem cells capable of becoming any of the 220 types of cells in the human body, but church leaders have said no possible scientific advance could justify the

destruction of human embryos.

But that has not kept supporters of embryonic stem-cell research from seeking money at the federal and state levels to continue their research.

Even before the results of the new studies were announced, voters in New Jersey rejected a ballot proposal that would have authorized \$450 million in state bonds for stem-cell research projects over the next 10 years.

Catholic leaders in other states were gearing up to fight similar battles. In Michigan, for example, every registered Catholic home received a DVD and other information in October as part of a statewide educational program to explain the church's support for adult stem-cell research and its opposition to embryonic stem-cell research.

The N.Y. State Catholic Conference criticized the Legislature and governor for deciding to spend \$600 million on life sciences research aimed chiefly at human embryonic stem-cell research.

In Iowa, Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque reacted with "deep



CNS PHOTO BY KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

Following a White House speech in June, U.S. President George W. Bush hugs Kaitlyne McNamara, a patient who underwent a treatment utilizing stem cells isolated from her own tissue.

sadness" after the Legislature there approved a measure to allow the cloning of human embryos for research.

Challenges also came at the federal level. In June, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill to expand federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells and issued an executive order calling on federal agencies to strengthen the nation's commitment to research on adult stem cells.

Researchers working with umbilical-cord blood, placenta blood and amniotic fluid also were making progress in deriving stem cells from those byproducts of live birth.

"With 4 million live births every year in our country alone, an ample supply of these cells lies readily at hand," said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the bishops' pro-life secretariat.

In a study reported early in 2007 by the journal *Nature*, scientists at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., said they had used stem cells derived from amniotic fluid to create muscle, bone, fat, blood, nerve and liver cells in the laboratory.

Doerflinger also expressed the bishops' support for full funding to collect and store cord blood for the National Cord Blood Inventory, which would enable doctors to match patients with compatible donors through a centralized computer data bank.

At their November meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops authorized their Committee on Pro-Life Activities to prepare a brief policy statement explaining why the church opposes embryonic stem-cell research. The document will be voted on by the bishops in June.



# Strong statements, violence, displacement mark Iraq in 2007

*State of refugees a 'disaster,' says cardinal*

BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — For Iraq's Christians, 2007 was marked by increased violence and displacement.

A report released in June by the founder of the Assyrian International News Agency recorded in depth the deaths of Christian children — including babies — laypeople, priests and nuns who were burned, beaten or blown up in car bombs throughout the past few years.

The report said al-Qaida terrorists had moved into Dora, a predominantly Christian neighborhood in Baghdad, and had begun enforcing "strict Islamic law" and forcing residents to pay a "jizya," a poll tax once levied on Christians and Jews living in Muslim countries.

On June 3 in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a Chaldean Catholic priest and his three subdeacons were killed. Father Ragheed Aziz Ganni, the three men, and the wife of one of the men were driving away from a church when their car was blocked by a group of armed militants, who forced the woman out of the car.

The militants opened fire on Father Ganni and the three subdeacons, then placed explosives around the car to prevent anyone from retrieving the four bodies.

The deaths evoked strong messages of sympathy from Pope Benedict XVI, who said Iraq's Christians are experiencing an "authentic martyrdom," and Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy.

In October, the pope called for the release of two priests kidnapped in Iraq.

They later were released.

The violence has forced many Christians to leave. More than 1.2 million Christians lived in Iraq before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Compared to the prewar percentage of Christians in Iraq, a disproportionate number of all Iraqi refugees are Christian.

## No refuge for refugees

Bishop Antoine Audo of Aleppo, Syria, said Iraqi refugees in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan suffer great hardships; many have lost family members, jobs and homes.

"They have no legal protection by law and they are not recognized as refugees," said the bishop, who ministers to approximately 60,000 Iraqi Christian refugees in Syria.

"They feel that they can't go home because of the war, and at the same time they can't get a (work) visa," he said.

In July a delegation of church leaders toured Middle Eastern countries that host Iraqi refugees.

Describing the state of the refugees as "a real man-made disaster" and "emergency situation," Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington and a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, expressed concern for the safety of two groups of Iraqi refugees: Christians and those who have worked with the U.S. military or government.

The church leaders returned from their trip urging the United States to cut through bureaucratic tape and open its doors to Iraqis.

In September, a senior U.S. State Department official told the U.S.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Iraqi refugees pray during a Mass in the Chaldean Catholic Vicariate in Amman, Jordan, in February. It's estimated that more than half of the 1.2 million Christians in Iraq have fled their country since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Commission on International Religious Freedom that the United States has been slow to admit the thousands of Iraqis referred by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The United States has "a moral obligation" to protect Iraqi refugees, "particularly those who belong to persecuted religious minorities, as well as those who have worked closely with the United States government," said Ellen Sauerbrey, assistant secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

The following month, Sauerbrey said that the United States would resettle 12,000 Iraqi refugees by the end of 2007.

Many Iraqi refugees are finding a new home in metropolitan Detroit with the help of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The refugees, many of them Chaldean Catholics, started arriving in the metro area this summer.

Bishop Audo told Catholic News Service that unless security improved in Iraq, the Chaldean diaspora

may become permanent.

He said the country's Chaldean Catholics were too scared to go home.

## Solidarity and support

During the U.S. bishops' meeting in November, they released a statement saying that some U.S. policymakers "seem to fail to recognize sufficiently the reality and failures in Iraq and the imperative for new directions."

It said the bishops "are convinced that the current situation in Iraq remains unacceptable and unsustainable."

"Our country needs a new direction to reduce the war's deadly toll and to bring our people together to deal with the conflict's moral and human dimensions," it said.

Throughout the year, Pope Benedict reassured Iraqi Christians of the church's solidarity, and he urged material as well as spiritual support.

While meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush in June, the pope expressed concern for the Iraqi Christian minority. Bush said after the meeting that the pope "was concerned that the society that was evolving would not tolerate the Christian religion."

"I assured (the pope) we were working hard to make sure" Iraqis would respect "that modern constitution voted on by the people that would honor people from different walks of life and different attitudes," Bush said.

In September, the pope met with Syrian Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa to discuss the exodus of Iraqis, many of whom have fled to Syria.

But perhaps the strongest signal of solidarity with Iraqis came when Pope Benedict put a red hat on Cardinal Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad during a Nov. 24 consistory.

The patriarch said the pope told him, "I hope this gesture will be a sign of reconciliation not only among the people, but especially among Sunnis, Shiites and Christians, because Iraq is a country dear to me."

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# 2007 a year of growth, blessings for diocese

RECAP, from page 1

year, the diocese published a book, "Voices and Places of the People of God — The Diocese of Charlotte." More than just a historical record, the 160-page coffee table book includes color photographs and spiritual reflections on Catholic life in the 46-county diocese.

"I hope this book will inspire all of us to continue together to play a part in advancing the Kingdom of God in the 21st century," wrote Bishop Peter J. Jugis in his introductory letter in the book.

On June 2, Bishop Jugis ordained five men as priests — the largest number ordained since 2000 — during a Mass at St. Matthew Church.

A few days prior, on May 30, Bishop Jugis dedicated the new St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler. The new church, which seats 300 worshippers, replaced the original building in Asheville.

On Sept. 30, Bishop Jugis dedicated the new St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville. The new 299-seat church replaced the older church, built in the 1940s.

Earlier that month, Sept. 1, Bishop Jugis blessed the diocese's newest Catholic cemetery on the site of the future Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. At the time, the cemetery already had 660 plots designated and room to expand to accommodate more.

Bishop Jugis blessed the expanded parish hall of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington March 18. The new hall was built to accommodate ministries of the growing parish community.

On Dec. 7, Bishop Jugis dedicated the new altar at St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. The relics of three saints are sealed in the new marble altar.

As another sign of the ever-growing diocese, four missions were elevated to parish status. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and St. Joseph Church in Charlotte, St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis and Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe-Candor were designated as parishes July 1.

Their new status was a result of a study that took into consideration the church's registered households, Mass attendance and recommendations from the diocesan strategic plan and the presbyteral council.

For all parishes in the diocese, Bishop Jugis promulgated new guidelines for parish pastoral councils Nov. 1. The guidelines replaced those issued in 1991 and reflect the changing role of pastoral councils in the 21st century.

Also during 2007, St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem celebrated their 50th anniversaries, with special celebrations held in September. Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin celebrated his 50 years of priestly ministry with a Mass and reception at St. Gabriel Church May 27.

Also celebrating 50 years of priestly ministry were Msgr. Joseph Kerin, Franciscan Father Conall McHugh and Father Joseph Waters. They were

honored at a Mass June 1, along with nine priests celebrating 25, 55 and 60 years as priests.

Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, celebrated 50 years as a Jesuit with a Mass and reception Sept. 9.

After 44 years of priestly ministry, Father Edward Sheridan retired and celebrated his 70th birthday during 2007.

In January and June, Bishop Jugis and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh called on Catholics in both dioceses to help defeat a bill to approve public funding for embryonic stem-cell research in North Carolina.

"The bill violates a fundamental church teaching on the sanctity of life," said Bishop Jugis June 21.

The bishops called on their flocks to contact their N.C. legislators to oppose House Bill 1837, which was approved by the N.C. House Science and Technology Committee to go before the House Appropriations Committee.

In addition, Bishops Jugis and Burbidge joined with Bishop Leonard H. Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in December to reaffirm a covenant of unity set forth 16 years prior.

The bishops signed the covenant during a formal ceremony at a Lutheran church in Winston-Salem Dec. 2.

Another historic moment for the Diocese of Charlotte was the visit of Catholicos Karekin II, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The diocese sponsored an ecumenical lunch in Charlotte Oct. 12 during the patriarch's month-long pontifical visit to Armenian churches throughout the United States.

The diocese's third annual Eucharistic Congress was held in Charlotte Sept. 21-22. Approximately 9,000 people attended the congress, which featured a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte, nationally known speakers, spiritual music and Mass.

Other highlights included the Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy winning Catholic Charity USA's Family Strengthening Award, and St. Pius X Church in Greensboro winning the International Catholic Stewardship Council's Parish Stewardship Certificate of Recognition, both in September.

In reflecting on 2007, Bishop Jugis said he was grateful for the five new priests and two new transitional deacons. "They are gifts from God for the future of our diocese," he said.

"I am grateful for the presence of men and women religious who witness to Christ by their consecrated lives, and I thank God for the ministry of our permanent deacons. The laity, who involve themselves in all parish ministries, have contributed immensely to the joy and vitality of our parishes this past year," said the bishop.

"I am grateful for the blessings God gave our diocese in 2007 through our Eucharistic Congress. It brought our entire diocese together as one, and strengthened our faith and love for the eucharistic Lord," said Bishop Jugis. "I am grateful for the blessings of Christian joy, charity and faith that I see present everywhere I go in the diocese."



FILE PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Five men are ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter J. Jugis during a Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte June 2, 2007.



FILE COURTESY PHOTO

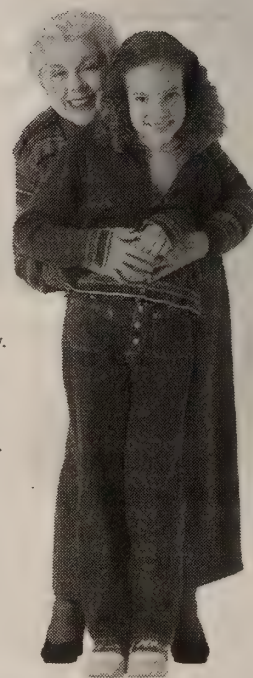
Members of the Diocese of Charlotte and its Office of Economic Opportunity receive the Family Strengthening Award from members of Catholic Charities USA during a convention in Cincinnati, Ohio Sept. 15, 2007.

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FILE PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Bishop Peter J. Jugis signs the decree of promulgation for the revised guidelines for pastoral councils in the Diocese of Charlotte Nov. 26, 2007.



FILE PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

As Bishop Peter J. Jugis and parishioners watch, Bernie Humphries (center) and Marty Scheveling cut the ribbon before the dedication Mass of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville Sept. 30, 2007.



FILE PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, Lutheran Bishop Leonard Bolick and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh are pictured during a covenant affirmation ceremony at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in Winston-Salem Dec. 2.



FILE PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis accepts an Armenian cross from Catholicos Karekin II during an ecumenical luncheon at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte Oct. 12, 2007.

## Important Upcoming Pro-Life Events for the Diocese of Charlotte

**NC Right to Life Prayer Breakfast and March for Life/Raleigh** — Saturday, January 12  
Call 1-800-392-6275 or visit: [ncrtl.org](http://ncrtl.org).



**March for Life/Charlotte** —  
Friday, January 18 – 12 noon.  
Gather at parking lot across from the Catholic Pastoral Center, W. Palmer and S. Church St.  
Questions? Call Tina: 704-846-7361



**CSS**  
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Diocese of Charlotte

**March for Life/Washington, D.C.** —  
Tuesday, January 22  
Mass at 10:30 am, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Peter J. Jugis.  
Please call the diocesan Respect Life Office (704-370-3229) or [mnadol@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mnadol@charlottediocese.org) for information, or if your parish is planning on taking a bus.

For information, call Maggi Nadol,  
Diocesan Respect Life Office – 704-370-3229.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Priest's personal stories of World War II Europe make horrors more real

VIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

To understand a period as complex as World War II and the Holocaust, we need to read both trained historians and ordinary men and women.

Historians provide a broad overview and an understanding of context but it is only individuals who can communicate the intimate details of what it is like to endure the suffering of mind, body and soul that is the reality of war.

Personal narratives can elicit the empathy and identification that move the reader to compassion and insight. One book under consideration, while not among the central Holocaust narratives, is important in fleshing out our knowledge of those terrible years.

Luxembourgian Father Jean Bernard (1907-1994) was a prisoner in the Dachau concentration camp from May 1941 to August 1942. "Priestblock 25487" was originally published in a newspaper series in 1945 and was loosely adapted into the acclaimed 2004 German film, "The Ninth Day."

Father Bernard's factual narrative is direct and explicit reportage and as such it gives a brutally honest recitation of what it was like to endure the clergy barracks of Dachau.

It is difficult to imagine how people managed to endure these depths of misery: physical and emotional torture, starvation, disease, unceasing cold, hard physical labor and merciless guards.

Moreover, conditions could, and often did, change radically. At the whim of sadistic guards and the camp commandant, rations were cut and prisoners were assigned to more dangerous or useless

work details, or forced to undergo collective punishment exercises.

Father Bernard does not offer theological reflections on his experience but in a luminous passage he describes participating in his first Mass at Dachau.

"Hoc est corpus meum." I look at the two bits of bread in my hand, and as the one for whom we are suffering all this comes into our midst, as in their hearts hundreds of priests join their offering with that of the Savior, tears roll down my cheeks.

"It becomes a single offering that certainly creates new ties between heaven and earth."

It is because of his suffering that Father Bernard has the right to call on us not to forget, but to forgive.

"We must forgive while remaining conscious of the full horror of what occurred, not only because nothing constructive can be built on a foundation of hatred ... but above all for the sake of him who commands and urges us to forgive, and before whom we, victims and executioners alike, are all poor debtors in need of mercy."

Linner, a freelance writer and reviewer, lives in Boston.



## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 13, 2008

Jan. 13, *The Baptism of the Lord*

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Psalm 29:1-4, 3, 9-10
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
- Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Our baptism calls us to be Jesus' light in the world

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Just before the Holy Spirit descends on Cornelius and his household (in the Scripture that follows the Acts reading for this week), Peter asks if they know "about Jesus of Nazareth beginning in Galilee with the baptism that John preached, of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good works ...."

Pretty exciting stuff, this proclamation of the person of Jesus and the power that flows from this living connection to God.

Though all of us are not called to pursue all of the ministries Jesus exercised, we are all called to help him in his role, as Isaiah puts it, to be "a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement" in one small way or another.

My friend who is an authority on immigration law helps others do this quite literally. When the lawyers he was allied with failed to keep certain matters of immigration law from being decided by judges not schooled in that field, it fell to him to write a handbook to help inform them of the appropriate laws.

His efforts could literally be used to bring prisoners from confinement.

A friend who is a writer went to Haiti to write about the horrible conditions in the slums of Port-au-Prince. She later followed up with mission visits as part of her own parish's efforts to help Haitians make a decent living.

They worked hand in hand with local Catholics in the poor but faith- and generosity-rich Haitian countryside.

My wife Susan has made a career in education, at first working with poor inner-city children, helping them raise their reading scores.

For more than 15 years, she has worked with immigrant children from every continent, providing for their transition into regular studies while providing that same home base of security and acceptance in her classroom.

A friend who is a doctor has served the poor with the healing arts. Most recently, he and his wife have run a Christian-based hospice where people's faith is respected and encouraged as they and their families prepare for their return to the giver of all good gifts, the one of whom David in the psalm for today says, "Give to the Lord the glory due his name."

There's power in baptism, and it all began with Jesus submitting to John the Baptizer.

### Questions:

Is there some small way God is calling you to be a light for others, to call out prisoners from darkness? Are you called to the support of others who engage in more active ministries?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Behold the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him" (Matthew 3:16b).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 6-12

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; Monday (St. Raymond of Penafort), 1 John 3:22-4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; Tuesday, 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; Wednesday, 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; Thursday, 1 John 4:19-5:4, Luke 4:14-22; Friday, 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; Saturday, 1 John 5:14-21, John 3:22-30.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 13-19

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; Monday, 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; Tuesday, 1 Samuel 1:9-20, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Mark 1:21-28; Wednesday, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mark 1:29-39; Thursday (St. Anthony), 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mark 1:40-45; Friday, 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mark 2:1-12; Saturday, 1 Samuel 9:1-14, 17-19; 10:1, Mark 2:13-17.

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# Keys2Heaven Web site connects personal stories to faith

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Tami Kimet died — and lived to tell about it.

“I’m not afraid of dying, I’ve been there. All those people are waiting for us,” said Kimet, a married mother of two who attends St. Luke Church in Erie.

Her incredible journey to the afterlife during a heart operation is the first of a series of inspirational stories set to music in a new project titled Keys2Heaven.

Ryan and Tim O’Neill, who honed their keyboard skills at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, have sold more than a million compact discs. Now they have teamed with Greg Schlueter, a video producer in Erie with extensive background in Catholic projects, to ask, “What’s your story of faith?”

Kimet shared her story and now the O’Neills and Schlueter would like to know the stories of others. They invite people to visit the project’s Web site, [www.Keys2Heaven.com](http://www.Keys2Heaven.com), and add a personal faith story.

Once a month they plan to select a new story and set it to music, leading up to completion of a 12-track CD titled “Stories of Faith: 12 Songs Inspired by You!” A companion booklet containing the corresponding stories will be included.

“Everyone has a story, and the project aims to help people intimately connect with God in their personal story,”

Schlueter said. “Piano keys can literally be keys to heaven, a way of connecting people to God through music.”

The O’Neills, siblings who are known as the Piano Brothers, say music offers a unique window to God and opens the senses to the different ways in which God shows love and compassion.

“It is a blessing to provide the music to help make that happen,” Ryan said.

The O’Neills are no strangers to success. They have six Billboard hits, songs appearing on HBO, PBS, NBC and ESPN, and an Emmy nomination.

But, they said, an abiding faith in God is at the heart of their piano playing.

“For us it has always been a prayer and an occasion for others to connect with God. If it does that for just one person, we’ve succeeded. Piano for us has always been keys to heaven,” Tim O’Neill said.

Both brothers are members of Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina, Minn.

Those visiting the Keys2Heaven home page can view a trailer in which Kimet shares her story as the O’Neills softly play the song “On the Other Side.”

Visitors to the Web site are invited to register and download the first track for free. They also can go to the “K2H Theater” and view Kimet’s entire story, which Dr. Christopher Strzalka, her surgeon, describes as “chilling.”



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PIANO BROTHERS

Catholics Ryan and Tim O’Neill, pictured in an undated photo, link their music to personal faith stories people post on a special Web site, [www.Keys2Heaven.com](http://www.Keys2Heaven.com). Keys2Heaven is a new project started by the brothers, who have sold more than a million compact discs as the “Piano Brothers.”

The story includes an encounter with angels and Kimet’s belief that she was sent back to this life to comfort those who have a life-threatening illness.

The theater also features other inspiring clips and an opportunity to receive a monthly e-mail newsletter titled “The Story.”

“Keys2Heaven is a comprehensive mission,” said Schlueter, whose companies have contributed to the success of “The Chronicles of Narnia” from Disney and Walden Media, “God or the Girl” on the A&E cable network, the baseball film “Champions of Faith,” and “Superman Returns” for Warner Bros.

Schlueter said a portion of all proceeds from their CD sales will go to faith-based, nonprofit groups.

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# Polish cardinal’s book about late pope made into miniseries, film

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz’s book about Pope John Paul II and his 39 years as the pope’s personal secretary is being made into a three-part television miniseries and a film simultaneously.

“A Life With Karol,” which begins with the day Polish Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, the future pope, asked then-Father Dziwisz to be his secretary, will be narrated by both the cardinal and British actor Michael York.

Producer Przemyslaw Hauser said he has 16 hours of taped interviews with the cardinal, now archbishop of Krakow, and was shooting on location in Gdansk, Poland, as well as at the Vatican.

“The idea is that we wanted to know more about John Paul II, which we got from the cardinal’s book, but in the interviews he told us many more things,” Hauser said.

Despite a standard Vatican prohibition against allowing commercial projects to film inside the Vatican, the crew of “A Life With Karol” received permits to film in St. Peter’s Square and in the Sistine Chapel.

Taking a break in the square Dec. 11, York, who played Basil Exposition in the three Austin Powers movies, told Catholic News Service: “I am doing a film in Russia and had two weeks free. They coincided exactly with this shooting in Krakow and Rome. It was destiny.”

York, who played St. John the Baptist in Franco Zeffirelli’s 1977 film, “Jesus of Nazareth,” is not Catholic, but he said he felt “very privileged” to be part of the project.

“Whether you are Catholic or not, you certainly are aware that Karol Wojtyla was remarkable. Reading the cardinal’s book made me realize how remarkable he was,” York said.

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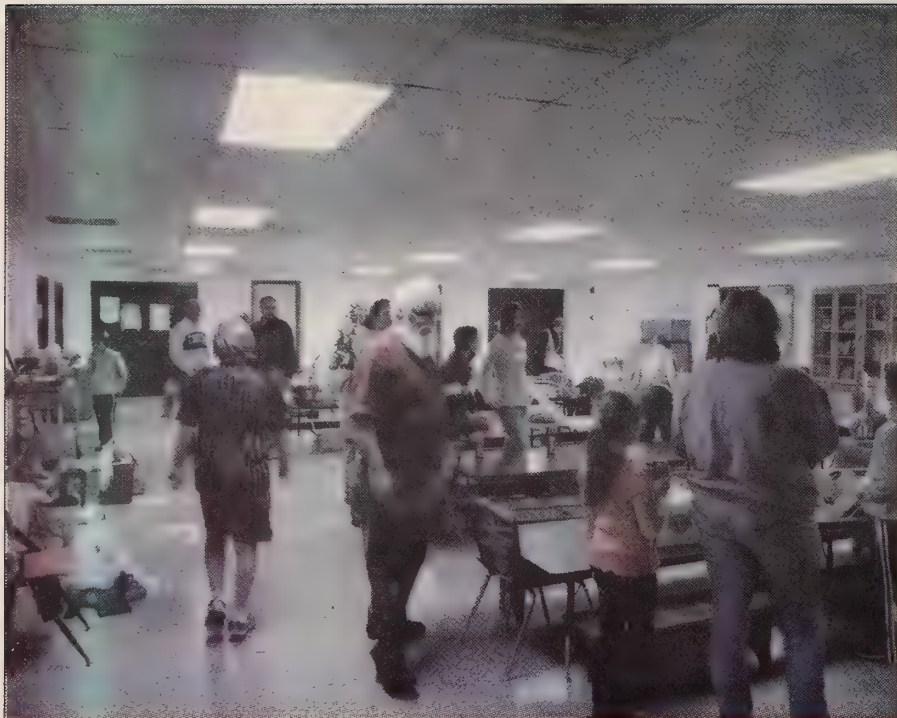
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# Christmas celebrated, shared across diocese



COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID PRIVETTE

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 and parish volunteers from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville sort donations Dec. 18 for the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program, collected through the parish Angel Tree. Nearly 30 families and 80 children received clothing, gifts and canned goods for Christmas through the generosity of parishioners and volunteers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point perform during the school's 21st annual Christmas musical Dec. 18. The students performed several versions of the musical for their elementary and middle school classmates and for family and friends.



COURTESY PHOTO

Musicians entertain during the 48th annual Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Volunteers served 2,725 dinners to the underprivileged; most of the dinners were served in the school cafeteria, but many were delivered to the homebound.

## Natural Family Planning Program Director



The Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services is seeking a director for the Natural Family Planning (NFP) program. Position requires teacher certification in a nationally recognized NFP method, ability to travel, and openness to working with all NFP methods. Full-time employment with benefits will be offered.

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Gerard A. Carter  
Catholic Social Services  
1123 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203-4003

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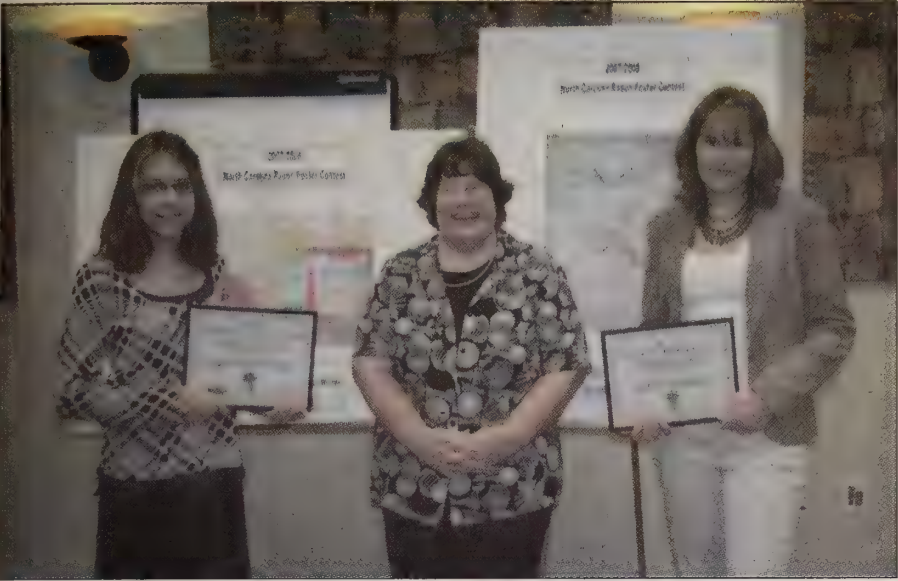
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# Raising radon awareness



COURTESY PHOTO

Nancy Farmer (center), an eighth-grade science teacher at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, is pictured with her students Carly Wooten and Danielle Nigro Dec. 12. Carly and Danielle placed first and third, respectively, out of 120 entries in North Carolina for the 2008 Radon Poster Contest.

The National Safety Council, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sponsored the annual contest for children ages 9-14 to generate interest, enthusiasm and action about radon safety. Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and chemically inert radioactive gas formed by the natural radioactive decay of uranium in rock, soil, and water. It can be found in all 50 states.

Carly's entry was entered in the national poster competition in Washington, D.C. Both students received cash prizes for their winning entries at the state level.

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**For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965, Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.**  
*(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)*

# Local Catholic school educator receives national distinction



PHOTO BY MIKE FORD

Assistant Principal Christine Hurley (right) of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem smiles during her announcement as an NCEA distinguished teacher at St. Leo the Great Church Dec. 18. Also pictured (from left) are Principal Georgette Schraeder, student body president Daniela DeChristo, Superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools Linda Cherry and PTO president Kate Ruley.

## Christine Hurley to receive NCEA distinguished teacher award

WINSTON-SALEM — Christine Hurley, assistant principal at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, has been selected as a distinguished teacher by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Principal Georgette Schraeder announced during a school Christmas celebration Dec. 18, 2007 that Hurley will be a recipient of the NCEA Sister Miriam Joseph Farrell Distinguished Teacher Award.

Twelve teachers are selected each year to receive the award at the annual NCEA convention. Hurley, who won for the South Atlantic States Region, will receive the award at the next convention, to be held in Indianapolis, Ind., March 25.

In a letter to Hurley, Nancy Genzel, the NCEA's regional representative for its Department of Elementary Schools, said Hurley's contributions to Catholic education were "truly impressive."

"Your principal, colleagues, parents and students attest to your outstanding service to them and your commitment to Catholic education," she wrote.

Schraeder called Hurley "a source of great inspiration to all at St. Leo Catholic School."

"Christine, you are loved and a treasure for your students ... you are appreciated by the parents and your principal and diocese," Schraeder said during her presentation speech.

During the gathering, Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, presented Hurley with a dozen roses.

Schraeder told Hurley the roses were "in testimony to your outstanding 12 years of service based on faith and love to St. Leo School."

The award, presented by the NCEA's Department of Elementary Schools, was established in 1981 in honor of Sister Farrell, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who served as the department's executive secretary until her illness and death in 1970.

The award is presented to one teacher in each of 12 geographic regions determined by the department. In honoring the 12 teachers each year, the department said it also honors the tens of thousands of outstanding teachers in all Catholic elementary schools.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The Alpha and the Omega of 2008

*Baptismal reflections will help guide us*

Every year begins with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; the baptism of the Lord and the Epiphany. What a beginning! It seems that the liturgy wants to remind us who is in charge for the rest of year: "Here I am," says the Lord, "I manifest myself to you through my mother, and bring you back to your own baptismal promises."

By beginning the New Year with a day of peace and prayer under the guidance of Mary, it is a startling reminder that peace is not the absence of war but the presence of love.

Looking back at the past year, we may feel sad, defeated and disappointed, or happy and thankful. Looking forward is an opportunity to be filled with faith and hope. We may wish to ponder, as Mary did, all the good things God has given and will give to us.

It is fine to celebrate the New Year with cheers and champagne and fireworks, because a new year is another blessing in our lives. The Catholic Church, however, wants to remind us that the internal celebration goes well beyond the external celebration; the church reminds us to look at the "story beyond the story."

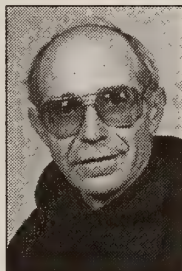
It's no coincidence that the symbols used at our baptisms — water, a white garment, a candle — are also used at our funerals. After all, Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end.

While many people can remember their first Communion, confirmation and confession; their graduation; their engagement and wedding; or their ordination, few people can recall their baptism (except those who were baptized as youngsters or adults).

Baptisms are not private, but public, ceremonies, because during our baptisms we become public witnesses of our

### Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN  
C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



faith. It really doesn't matter if you were baptized by the pouring of water or immersion in water.

If the water was poured, it meant the descending of the Holy Spirit. If you were immersed, it meant the death of sin; it meant cleansing and resurrection.

To think of our baptism as a one-day event or as a piece of paper, a baptismal certificate, then we may risk our own identity as a Christian. Baptism is so important that even Martin Luther, when he was overwhelmed by the challenges of his sinfulness, would remind himself: "I am baptized."

Let our baptism set the pace for the coming year by our reflecting on that celebration of life.

With the New Year, Christmas is not over or fading away; instead, it is now that the work of Christmas really begins. Jesus' message was love, and that love will be felt in our hearts throughout the new year if we realize that we are baptized in, through, with, by and for Jesus Christ.

So do not wonder how 2008 will be. It will go and end the way you want it to — because the Alpha and the Omega are in your hands, and you are the hands of God.

*Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

## New Jersey ends the death penalty

*Catholics play crucial part in historic victory*

Dec. 17, 2007, was a Monday that will go down in history. That day, New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine signed a bill repealing the death penalty in the state.

His action marked the first time in nearly 32 years that a state repealed capital punishment as the way to deal with the heinous crime of murder.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed and set death by execution as the way America would deal with those guilty of this ultimate crime. With that decision, 37 states chose to be death-penalty states.

It is now down to 36, thanks to New Jersey! As Catholics who are pro-life, we must celebrate the great news.

Since 1976, executions in the U.S. have totaled 1,099. Some who were hanged, shot by firing squads, electrocuted or poisoned may have been innocent.

With scientific advances, now we can be more certain of evidence used to convict or free. Thanks to DNA testing, 125 death-row inmates were found innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted.

Many Catholics can be credited for doing faithful work in the cause of replacing the death penalty in New Jersey with life-in-prison sentences with no chance of parole.

"Catholics played an important role" in ending the death penalty in her state, said Celeste Fitzgerald, director of New Jerseyans for Alternatives for the Death Penalty. She added that "the New Jersey Catholic Conference and the bishops have been tremendous in their support" of ending state-sponsored killings.

Ending the death penalty in New Jersey became a bipartisan issue, and something of a grassroots movement with some unexpected supporters, Fitzgerald said. "Many family members of victims — 62, in fact — signed letters calling for an end to the death penalty, which they felt only added to their pain."

### The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE  
BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



"Many law enforcement officials signed. During the hearings, a pro-death-penalty police chief, moved by what he heard, changed his mind" and supported abolition of capital punishment.

"It was clear that the death penalty just failed as a policy," said Fitzgerald.

Her own commitment began when she was young; she was raised by Catholic pro-life parents.

"I'll never forget when Pope John Paul II was in the United States in 1979," recalled Fitzgerald. "He was so clear on where he stood on opposing the death penalty."

Pope John Paul espoused the position of the Community of Sant'Egidio, based in Italy, which has long called for a global moratorium on capital punishment.

As spokesperson Mario Marazziti affirms, the death penalty "is not a deterrent, it does not reduce the number of crimes, but it lowers the state to the level of those who kill, and it affirms a culture of death at the highest level."

Governor Corzine deserves the greatest respect for saying outright that he has believed for most of his adult life "that capital punishment is wrong."

The New York Times quoted him saying that he believed "from my heart and from my soul" that ending capital punishment in New Jersey was the right decision.

I asked Fitzgerald what she believed made the difference in ending the death penalty in New Jersey.

Without hesitation she said, "We won because we believed we could."

## RCIA: A pattern for our journey in faith

One of the best things to happen to the church since the Second Vatican Council has been the RCIA. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a much-improved way to help people along the path to conversion.

More than just "rites" of initiation, it is about a lifelong journey in faith. The process of RCIA should begin a lifetime of continuing education for everyone, convert and cradle Catholic alike.

In our parish we call RCIA the "Journey in Faith."

In the old days, "converts" to Catholicism might have met privately with a priest for a few sessions of

instruction. They might read a book together. The whole process was solitary and in some ways unnoticed by the whole parish. The adult convert was a very rare bird in many parishes.

Today, adult converts are more common and more publicly celebrated and welcomed. Many of the most active members of my parish are people who came into or back to the church as adults.

Many have spent a lifetime wandering in a spiritual wilderness. For them, RCIA is a discovery of faith and community. Some have lived on the fringe of the church for years; RCIA is a sort of homecoming.

### Parish Diary

FATHER PETER  
DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



Like most parishes, our "Journey in Faith" is not just me instructing the converts. We have about a dozen people on our team. Many of them are converts themselves. The team approach tells the convert that the whole community is involved. The church as a whole, lay and clergy, are involved in teaching and welcoming new members.

Faith is not just a gift of the clergy; it is of the entire community.

Other than the Easter Vigil, the most important moment of our RCIA is a weekend retreat we host for our catechumens and candidates. They hear stories of faith and realize that this faith engages not only the head but the heart.

RCIA increases the joy of passing on the faith and is also a pattern for what we do in continuing adult education.

Next year our parish will take the next step by offering regular adult instruction for people who want to go further. It will also be a journey of 35 weeks, with instruction not just for converts but for any Catholic with questions.

We will use RCIA as a pattern. The Second Vatican Council saw the church as the people of God on the march to our salvation.

For a parish priest, it is great to have so many helpers on that journey.



# Membership eligibility in the Knights of Columbus

*Q. Can a man belong to the Knights of Columbus if he is divorced? Does it matter any more if he is living with someone else? (New York)*

A. Knights of Columbus regulations state that only practicing Catholics are eligible for membership. There was a time when those known not to have fulfilled their Easter sacramental obligations, or who were divorced and remarried, were expelled from the Knights of Columbus, generally with the consent of the local pastor or chaplain.

One spokesman for the Supreme Council of the Knights told me, unless it is a case of serious scandal, "there is more concern about bringing an individual back to church and to the sacraments so he will indeed be a practicing Catholic rather than rejecting him from our society."

National Knight of Columbus officials have concluded it is nearly impossible to establish a rule which would govern every case and still be fair to everyone. Consequently, they ordinarily leave such decisions to the local grand knights and chaplains.

## Polygamy and the Catholic Church

*Q. In connection with a polygamy trial recently in the news, I was told the*

*Catholic Church formerly allowed a man to have more than one wife until the Middle Ages. That's hard to believe, but is it true? (Florida)*

A. There's no evidence that the Catholic Church either in its various theologies or in official teachings ever approved a husband having more than one wife at the same time.

The confusion you encountered could have several explanations. In the Old Testament the Hebrew people clearly believed that God approved of polygamous marriages, at least in some instances, and particularly among higher social classes and political leaders.

Christian theologians have speculated on why having more than one wife should enjoy divine approval in one age and not in another. Some said polygamy is only illicit today because of a command from God.

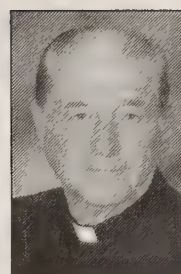
A more common explanation is that having several wives is against the natural law but was once permitted by God for special reasons. In either case, none has defended polygamy as a morally lawful option since the time of Christ.

Several hundred years ago the church made some strong declarations against polygamy that could seem to imply that the teaching was something new.

These statements were made,

## Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



however, to repudiate a stand taken by some Protestant reformers that leaned heavily toward occasional permission to have more than one wife.

Philip, Landgrave (prince) of Hesse in Germany, for example, who had made his court a Lutheran center, consulted Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon about his desire to take a second wife.

They gave their approval since "what was permitted in marriage in the law of Moses, the Gospel does not take away." The Council of Trent in 1563 opposed that position.

Even into the 20th century some writers unfriendly toward the Catholic Church claimed that Pope Clement VII (died 1534) declared himself prepared to grant a dispensation to England's King Henry VIII for bigamy.

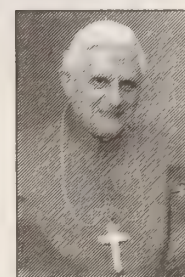
While Pope Clement's procrastination in the matter of Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon contributed to the spread of Protestant teaching during his pontificate, to my knowledge no historian today seriously suggests that he contemplated authorizing polygamy for anyone.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen at Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).

## Pope calls on Christians to turn to Mary for help in building peace

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on Christians to turn to Mary, the mother of God, for help in being true friends of Jesus and courageous builders of peace.

In his first general audience of 2008, the pope greeted thousands of pilgrims Jan. 2 in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, bestowing upon them his "prayerful good wishes" for the new year.

He said the new year had been ushered in "under the sign of the Virgin Mary" as the church celebrated the Jan. 1 feast of Mary, Mother of God.

He invited the faithful to "carefully consider the importance of the presence of Mary in the life of the church and in our own personal life" and prayed that Mary would help "make us more keenly aware of her maternal presence."

Mary's divine motherhood, her Immaculate Conception, and her assumption, body and soul, into heaven are privileges that do not remove Mary from her children, but rather bring her closer to the faithful, he said.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At the beginning of this New Year, I offer prayerful good wishes to all of you and to your families.

Yesterday, the church joyfully celebrated the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. This ancient title of Our Lady — Theotokos — reflects the truth that Jesus, her Son, is true God and true man.

The confirmation of this title at the Council of Ephesus in the fifth century led to ever greater devotion to Mary and the dedication of numerous churches in her honor, including the Basilica of St. Mary Major here in Rome.

During this Christmas season, we can sense the close relationship between the Incarnation and Our Lady's dignity as the Mother of God. Indeed, the title "Mother of God" expresses Mary's special mission in the history of salvation and her particular role in the mystery of Christ and the church.

Our Lady's divine motherhood is in fact the basis of every other title by which the church honors her. Mother of God and mother of the church, Mary was also entrusted by Christ to be the mother of each of his disciples (cf. Jn 19:27).

In this New Year, may we turn to her with confidence and, through her protection and prayers, be strengthened in our love for Jesus her Son and our service to the coming of his Kingdom.

# The game plan for overcoming toxic thoughts

*Liberation stems from willpower and pure prayer*

Jim wanted to quit smoking. Whenever the New Year came around, he felt discouraged. Having broken so many resolutions in the past, he was afraid of trying again. He just couldn't kick the habit.

It wasn't because he was weak that Jim couldn't quit. He would climb Mount Everest in a snowstorm to get a smoke if he needed to.

What Jim lacked was a game plan. He needed to know more about the human psyche.

The soul is made up of intellect and will. The will is the center of the personality. The will says "yes" or "no."

The will can only control the thoughts; the thoughts in turn control the feelings, and these emotions in turn control the actions.

The will says yes or no to your thoughts. It has no direct control over your actions. To get to your actions, the will has to go through the thoughts, which make the feelings change.

Feelings and cravings can drive you to act against your own best intentions. Learn to condition your feelings by working hard to control your thoughts.

You are not your thoughts. You are the observer of your thoughts. Thoughts come and go willy-nilly; some are

healthy and some are toxic.

You are the center of your personality. You control your will to say yes to healthy thoughts and no to toxic ones. Toxic thoughts create toxic feelings.

Here is a typical toxic thought: "I need a fix, no matter what!" This is a false belief that will upset your emotions.

You have to reject it with all your heart. Contradict your toxic thinking with positive thoughts.

Decide to crave good health. Decide to be happy. Decide to become your own best friend.

Decide to love yourself by believing that you are called by God to be an instrument of joy.

Decide to rise to the highest aspirations of the human spirit.

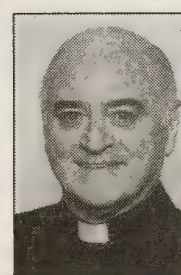
Smoking, for example, will damage your health, make you angry with yourself and interfere with your vocation. The more you think about being healthy, the less you will want to fill your lungs with poisonous smoke.

Controlling your thoughts is at the very heart of all spiritual progress.

Most people live by their feelings, but feelings are ultimately shaped by their thoughts. Control your thoughts and you will control your feelings, your actions, your personality and your destiny.

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



Dwell on clean, healthy thoughts, and your emotional life will become healthy. If you still find yourself entertaining toxic thoughts despite your best efforts, then begin to pray as never before.

Pray for the grace to make your good intentions a reality.

Grace builds on nature.

Twelve-step programs, for example, have saved millions of people all over the world.

Step One: The addict realizes he (or she) is powerless over some problem or some chemical substance.

Step Two: He also realizes that God has the power to help him.

Step Three: He turns his life and his will over to the God of his understanding, believing that God will do for him what he is not able to do for himself.

People have been liberated from their addictions by following this game plan that involves pure prayer and training of the will.

Pure prayer is nothing more than the will to give yourself to God. You never have to force feelings of any kind. Feelings will follow thoughts at their own pace.

Patience obtains all.





CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

People take shelter Jan. 2 in a police station after ethnic violence in Eldoret, Kenya. An explosion of tribal violence over a disputed presidential election has claimed the lives of more than 300 people, including 30 burned alive at a Pentecostal church in Eldoret.

## A desperate 'hour of need'

Kenyan Catholic bishops appeal for dialogue to resolve violence

BY FRANICS NJUGUNA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NAIROBI, Kenya — Following days of violence and death after the announcement of disputed election results, Kenya's Catholic bishops appealed to political leaders to make every effort to engage in dialogue to resolve the crisis.

A church official also said a bishop in one of the areas with the worst violence had appealed for help for the local humanitarian crisis.

"We appeal specifically to the political leaders ... to reach out to one another through dialogue in order to seek a solution to the present situation," said a Jan. 2 statement signed by 24 Kenyan bishops, including Nairobi Cardinal John Njue, chairman of the Kenya Episcopal Conference.

The four-page statement, "My Peace I Give You," emphasized that Kenya needs peace based on justice and true brotherhood. The bishops offered to mediate the crisis and proposed a review of the election results.

"We make an appeal to all responsible to seek ways like establishing a commission to audit and specifically review the tallying of the parliamentary and presidential polls," said the bishops, noting allegations of electoral irregularities.

"We urge that everything possible should be done in order to investigate and establish the truth of these claims by means other than violence and destruction of property," they said.

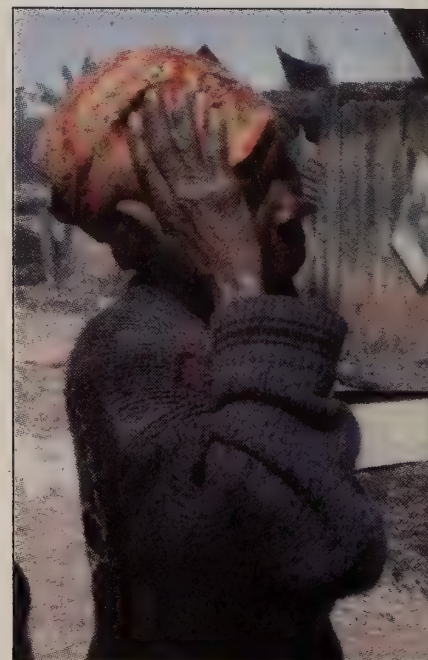
The Kenya Human Rights Commission and the International Federation for Human Rights said more than 300 people had died since the Dec. 27 presidential election in which President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner.

Among those dead were up to 50 people burned alive in an Assemblies of God church where they had sought refuge in the city of Eldoret.

Property damage throughout Kenya has been estimated in the millions.

Raila Odinga, the opposition candidate, claims the election was rigged. The head of the country's electoral commission said both sides pressured him to announce the results quickly, and he is not sure he announced the correct results.

The bishops urged Kenyans — especially youths — to exercise restraint in their behavior and remarks and to refuse to take part "in any form of destruction, looting or even



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

A woman cries near a destroyed Assemblies of God church where some 30 people were burned alive in Eldoret, Kenya, Jan. 1.

receiving stolen goods."

"Do not think you are powerless," they said. "You can do something. Talk to relatives, friends, neighbors, people you know who can help resolve the current situations."

Father Vincent Wambugu, secretary-general of the Kenya Episcopal Conference, said the current crisis had affected close to 75,000 people of various faiths.

"Half of this figure is being sheltered within the Eldoret Catholic diocese," he said.

Ugandan official told The Associated Press that more than 5,000 people had fled to Uganda, and AP reported several hundred had fled to Tanzania.

Father Wambugu told Catholic News Service that churches in the Eldoret Diocese had established an interreligious coordinating committee, while the local Catholic Church has told the Kenyan branch of the charitable agency Caritas Internationalis and the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services to coordinate the humanitarian crisis.

The priest said Eldoret Bishop Cornelius Arap Korir had appealed to his fellow Catholic bishops to come to the aid of the diocese "at this hour of need."

Father Wambugu said the bishop asked for food, bedding, tents and anything else necessary for sheltering the rapidly increasing number of needy people.

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- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
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- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

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THE  
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NEWS HERALD





## Perspectives

Church's theology of  
salvation; signs of hope for  
ending death penalty

| PAGES 14-15

## Desegregating the South

N.C. Bishop Waters  
called helpful in ending  
segregation

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — More  
than 50 years ago, Catholics  
were a distinct minority in the  
South's religious landscape.

Still, there were some  
Catholic leaders who used  
their moral authority to help  
another minority — African-  
Americans — overcome the  
burdens of Jim Crow and make  
desegregation possible.

Speaking Jan. 4 during  
a panel presentation at the  
American Catholic Historical  
Association's meeting in  
Washington, Cecilia Moore  
pointed to a North Carolina  
bishop and a convent in Danville,  
Va., as two leading lights in the  
fight against segregation.

Moore, a professor at the

See SOUTH, page 6

## A different way of learning



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Lannie Davis, a co-teacher in The Learning/Language Stimulation Pilot Program at St. Ann School in Charlotte, works with Megan Walton and Matthew Abernathy Dec. 17, 2007. The program provides one-on-one instruction for students who have difficulties communicating.

## Pilot program develops students' language skills

BY KAREN A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Five  
months ago, 7-year-old  
Matthew Abernathy couldn't  
read or form letters.

He had never taken a test or  
gone to music class, because the  
public school system could not  
provide the special education  
he needed.

Today, he is reading at  
close to a first-grade level,  
goes to music class and takes  
spelling tests.

Matthew is one of  
five students enrolled in  
The Learning/Language  
Stimulation Pilot Program at  
St. Ann School in Charlotte.  
This innovative program  
provides intensive one-on-  
one instruction in a Catholic-  
school environment for second-  
through fifth-graders who have  
difficulties communicating.

In September 2006, a  
committee of parents, educators,  
administrators and community  
leaders was formed to explore  
the need for and ability to

See CLASSROOM, page 5

## Addressing the 'state of the world'

Pope Benedict warns diplomats that conflicts  
threaten global stability

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY —  
Addressing diplomats from  
around the world, Pope  
Benedict XVI warned that  
numerous armed conflicts and  
social disorders have left global  
stability in a fragile situation.

In Iraq, the pope said  
Jan. 7, the latest attack on

Christian churches reflects  
a continuing climate of  
terrorism and violence in  
the country and illustrates the  
need for constitutional reform  
to safeguard the rights of  
minorities.

On nuclear weapons,  
he urged the international

See DIPLOMATS, page 7

## A calling to serve

For National Vocations  
Awareness Week, Jan. 13-19,  
The Catholic News & Herald  
profiles the 17 seminarians  
studying for priesthood in the  
Diocese of Charlotte.

See pages 8-9.

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS



A Swiss Guard overlooks the room as Pope Benedict XVI meets with Vatican-accredited diplomats Jan. 7 at the Vatican. In his annual address to diplomats, the pope said security and stability in the world are fragile and urged the international community to work to prevent nuclear weapons from getting into the hands of terrorists.

#\*

### Culture Watch

Book of Asian saints; rock  
single dedicated to pope

| PAGES 10-11

### In Memoriam

Obituaries for diocesan priest,  
Sister of Mercy

| PAGE 12

### Rebuilding a nation

Lasting peace in Uganda  
not easy, says priest

| PAGE 16

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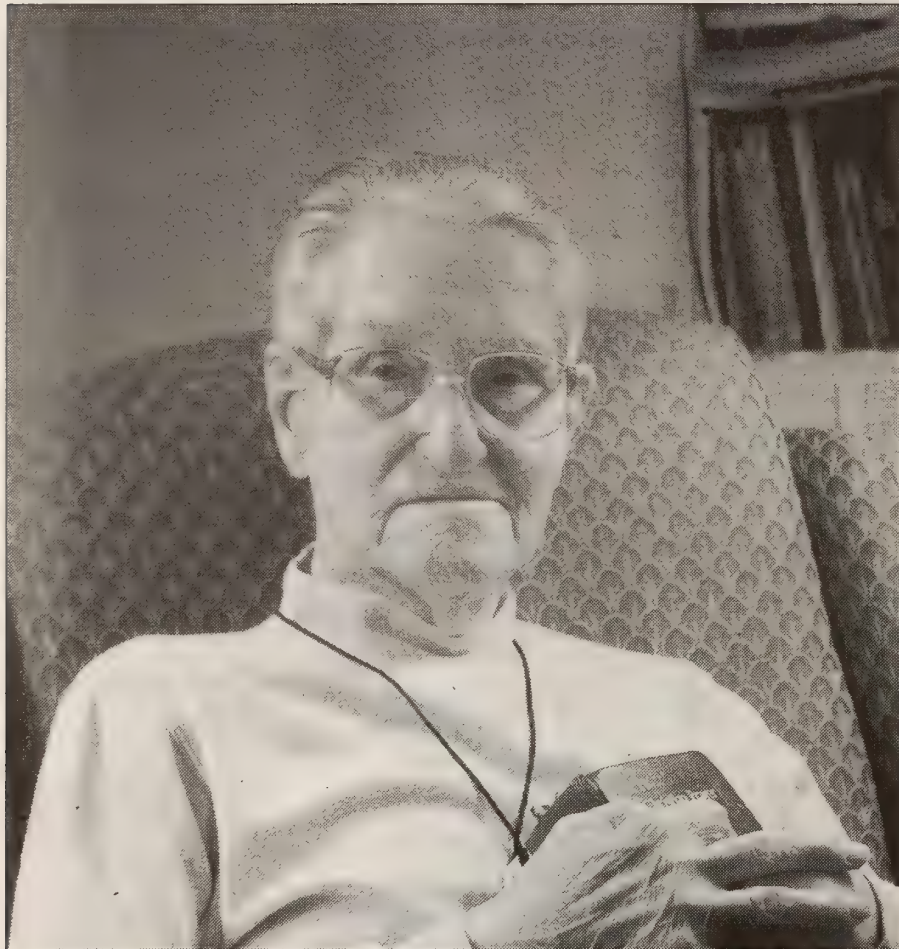
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## HAVE INTERNET, WILL E-MAIL



CNS PHOTO BY BRANDON ALANA-MAUGAOTEGA, COURTESY OF SOCIETY OF MARY

Marianist Brother Francis "Frank" Deibel is pictured at Mercy Siena Gardens assisted living facility in Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 9. The 99-year-old spends three to four hours every day on his computer, exchanging e-mails with more than 100 contacts. He has been a Marianist for 81 years, professing his first vows in 1926.

## At 99, tech-savvy Marianist uses computer three to four hours a day

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — "Maybe I should be reading more," mused Marianist Brother Francis Deibel.

The 99-year-old brother may have a point. Each day he spends up to four hours at his computer exchanging e-mails with more than 100 contacts.

"Lately I've been getting too many e-mails," added Brother Deibel, who thinks too many older people are afraid of technology and computers.

"I try to open and read all of them, but sometimes they are too numerous," he said.

He begins his computer time by forwarding readings about the saint of the day.

"I send this information to all my Marianist contacts," he said.

He then spends hours answering personal e-mails and deleting junk e-mails.

Brother Deibel has been a Marianist since 1926 — one year before the first "talkie" feature film.

"I began using a computer when it was just a bunch of wires put together," he said.

He refined his skills in classes at the University of Dayton, where he worked

for 48 years as a librarian. He also credits 86-year-old Marianist Brother Bill Callahan, whom Brother Deibel calls his "young" friend, with teaching him additional skills.

Brother Deibel started e-mailing in 1990 and he says he has used his computer daily ever since. His e-mail address book has four groups: Marianists, relatives, "something else," and "all."

The size of his groups are growing, too.

"When I learn of a new e-mail address for someone I know, I'll add it to my list, if it is OK with that person. It doesn't cost extra to add them, so I go ahead and do it," he said.

Brother Deibel said it's possible for all of his fellow senior citizens to pick up the technological tricks of the trade.

"I would encourage old people not to be afraid of the computer," he said. "Too many old people are, but there is nothing to be afraid of. It's just like a typewriter. It won't talk back at you! Learn how to use it."

"Don't lose time watching TV. Using the computer is much more personal and enjoyable," he said.

## Christians, Muslims pray at memorial services for Benazir Bhutto

LAHORE, Pakistan (CNS) — Christians and Muslims joined in memorial services for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in churches around the country as they called for an independent inquiry into her assassination.

More than 300 people — including nuns, human rights activists and political leaders from Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party — gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Lahore for a special Mass Jan. 6.

They placed garlands, bouquets and candles near large portraits of Bhutto in front of the altar and at the entrance of the cathedral.

Banners read: "We salute Benazir Bhutto for struggling for the restoration of minorities' rights and prosperity for the poor," "She was a hope for minorities" and "We demand immediate arrest of the killers of Bhutto."

The All Pakistan Minority Alliance, a Christian political party, called for

a National Prayer Day Jan. 6 to honor Bhutto, 54, who was killed in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, Dec. 27.

Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha of Lahore, president of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Father Andrew Nisari, vicar general of the Lahore Archdiocese, concelebrated the memorial Mass at the cathedral.

Similar gatherings took place in other churches, where Catholic and Protestant leaders as well as political workers — both Christians and Muslims — prayed together.

Father Nisari said the killing of a woman of Bhutto's caliber was the worst example of social illiteracy and ignorance. He urged all present to pray for change in the minds of terrorists.

Jehangir Badar, general secretary of the Pakistan People's Party, said: "We vow, in this holy assembly, to continue the mission of our courageous leader, who respected the Christian community and considered them equal citizens."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 18. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — The *Healing Prayer Group* will pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus for your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physical. Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday of each month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner at [chlt5nc@aol.com](mailto:chlt5nc@aol.com).

CHARLOTTE — The Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is sponsoring a free showing of the documentary *Love Lived on Death Row* Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the

Banquet Room. The film tells the story of the four Syriani siblings whose father, Elias, was sentenced to die for murdering their mother in 1990. It also includes reflections by Meg Eggleston, who became their father's friend and spiritual advisor through letters to him in prison. Producer and director Linda Booker will introduce the film and Eggleston will give a short talk following the showing. The evening's focus will be on forgiveness and restorative justice. The public is invited to come at 6:45 p.m. in order to begin the documentary promptly at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677 or visit [www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html](http://www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html).

CHARLOTTE — Franciscan Father Ed Flannagan will lead a parish mission, "*Awakening our Faith in Challenging Times*" at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., Jan. 26-30. Father Flannagan will preach at all weekend Masses. It begins Jan. 28 with Mass at 9 a.m. and mission at 7 p.m.; Jan. 29: Mass at 9 a.m. and mission and reconciliation at 7 p.m.; and Jan. 30: Mass and mission and anointing at 7 p.m. For more information, call David Reiser at (704) 535-3310.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, will have a *Vigil Mass, Rosary and Benediction* for the unborn Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host *Facing the Dilemma: An Educational Forum to Uncover the Legal and Moral Issues at the Center of the Immigration Debate*. Speakers at this forum will address health care, public safety, education and employment, with an emphasis on how these matters relate to human dignity. The forum will take place Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. in the banquet room of the New Life Center. For more information,

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Spokesman says care of environment common theme for Pope Benedict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The obligation to care for the environment and protect the earth as the “common home” of all humanity is a theme that increasingly is found in the teaching of Pope Benedict XVI, his spokesman said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi told Vatican Radio Jan. 5 that ecology “is an argument which comes up with more frequency in the words of the pope, mirroring the growing ecological concerns of humanity.”

Concern for the environment was a major theme in Pope Benedict’s message for the Jan. 1 celebration of World Peace Day.

“Until recently, the theme of the environment seemed like a concern of the rich rather than the poor, of developed countries rather than developing nations for whom economic growth is an absolute priority,” said Father Lombardi.

contact Terri Jarina at [terrijarina@juno.com](mailto:terrijarina@juno.com). Free and open to the public.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A study series, “Living the Questions 2.0,” will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Tuesdays in January, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO —The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host a covered dish luncheon at St. Paul the Apostle Church Jan. 23 (snow date Jan. 30) 12-2 p.m. Program will be presented by Jane Hamlin, storyteller. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host an *Open House* Jan. 30 at 7:15 p.m. for the general public, parishioners and anyone else with questions regarding or interest in the Catholic faith. We extend our invitation to Catholics and non-Catholics, parishioners or anyone who has fallen away from the church for any reason. Father Jack Kelly will open the evening, and then the directors of RCIA, HOSEA, adult faith formation and Bible studies will introduce their programs. The event will include a tour of the church, refreshments and a question-and-answer session. Written information will also be available. For more information, please contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or [hkwan@lexcominc](mailto:hkwan@lexcominc)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — Dr. David Dorondo, professor of history at Western Carolina University, will present “The Myth of Hitler’s Pope”

Now, people are realizing that ecological exploitation and destruction worsens the effects of natural disasters and mortgages the future of the poorest countries, he said.

Pope Benedict’s approach, Father Lombardi said, is “a strong moral appeal to solidarity on the basis of a recognition of the universal destination of the goods of creation, which belong also to the poor and to future generations.”

In his World Peace Day message, the pope wrote, “We need to care for the environment: It has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion.”

“The problems looming on the horizon are complex and time is short,” he said, suggesting new international agencies may be needed to help promote and coordinate global efforts.

Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St., in the fellowship hall. Dorondo will give the facts about Pope Pius XII, Adolf Hitler, the Catholic Church and Nazi Germany. A potluck supper will be followed by the presentation. For more information, call Matthew Newsome at (828) 586-1747 or the church office at (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present “Primacy of Christ (Scotus)” Jan. 13, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27 (except Feb. 6), at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Imam Khalid Fattah Griggs (Islam) will speak Jan. 16 and Judith Dancy (Friends Meeting) will speak Jan. 23. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at [spriitofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spriitofassisi@bellsouth.net).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican to encourage greater caution in opening sainthood causes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is preparing to issue a set of instructions to promote “greater caution and more accuracy” in the opening of new sainthood causes by local dioceses, a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, said the instructions were needed to reflect the “new spirit introduced by Pope Benedict XVI in beatification procedures.”

The cardinal spoke in an interview published Jan. 8 by the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, under the headline: “More precision will be asked in diocesan canonization processes.”

Cardinal Saraiva Martins said the new document will be addressed to all resident bishops, instructing them on procedures regarding the opening and advancement of sainthood causes.

It will underline how the “theology of the local church” is manifested in

such causes, he said.

The cardinal said the beatification of a local member represents an intense moment of faith and joy for church communities.

“But precisely because of this new value and this additional fervor implied by such events, it is necessary to proceed with even greater caution and more accuracy,” he said.

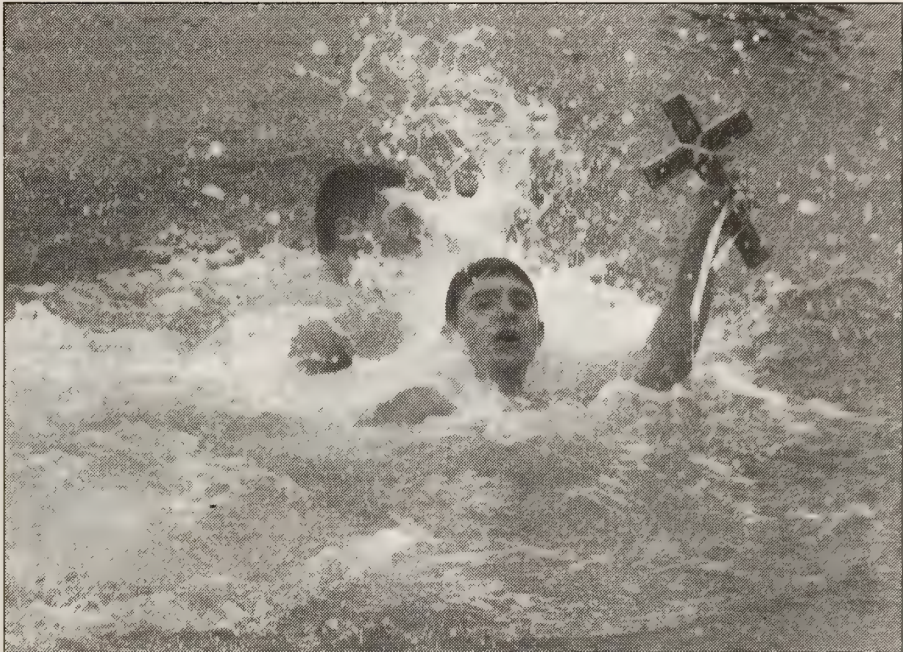
He said the new document would probably be formally presented to journalists at the Vatican press office.

The congregation also intends to bring the new instructions to the attention of the hundreds of postulants who guide sainthood causes, possibly through a day of study, he said.

Asked if the new instructions would help put an end to stories about the church’s “saint factories,” Cardinal Saraiva Martins said the term does not even merit a response.

The church does not make saints; it merely follows procedures so that they are recognized, he said.

# Braving the waters



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Ari Danginis, 17, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Port Jefferson, N.Y., braves the cold water to retrieve a mahogany cross during a “Blessing of the Waters” ceremony celebrating the feast of the Epiphany at the harbor in Mount Sinai, N.Y., Jan. 6.

In Orthodox churches, the Epiphany, also known as the Holy Theophany, commemorates the baptism of Christ in the Jordan River and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

- Jan. 13 – 9 a.m.  
Installation of Father Ricardo Sanchez as pastor  
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe-Candor

Jan. 14 – 7 p.m.  
Right to Life Mass  
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro
- Jan. 15 – 11 a.m.  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Jan. 18 – 11 a.m.  
Charlotte March for Life  
Pastoral Center parking lot to Uptown Charlotte

## DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery’s filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.



## Showing they care



PHOTO COURTESY

Women are pictured with baby clothes and items during a "baby shower" at Holy Family Church in Clemmons for the Wee Care Shoppe outreach of Catholic Social Services in Winston-Salem Dec. 20. The parish's Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild sponsored the shower; the baby clothes and items were donated by parishioners.

Pictured are (from left) Ellen Tommasi, guild president; Ann Safrit, board member of the Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition; Pat White, president of the Piedmont chapter of Newborns in Need; and Cathy Hurd, a Wee Care Shoppe volunteer.

During the shower, Safrit, White and Hurd spoke on the functions and needs of their organizations, and Donna Dyer, respect life coordinator at Holy Family Church, was honored for her dedication to the pro-life movement.

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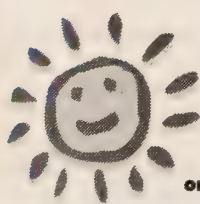
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THE CATHOLIC  
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## Charitable Columbiettes



COURTESY PHOTO

Emily Hughes (left) of Hospice and Palliative Care of Winston-Salem accepts a \$100 donation Oct. 25, 2007 from Carol Pennington, past president of the Columbiettes from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville. The Columbiettes of several churches in North Carolina held a media contest, from which the Holy Cross Columbiettes won the \$100; the group then selected the hospice to receive the funds. The contest involved getting Columbiette activities highlighted in the media.

The Columbiettes, a Catholic women's organization, is the ladies auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

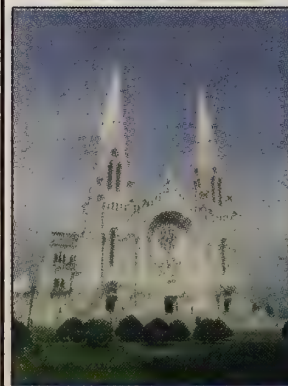
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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# Pilot program develops students' language skills

CLASSROOM, from page 1

create a classroom for students with special educational needs. Surveys were sent to about 40 Catholic households with children and adults with learning disabilities.

"Language skills was the major issue we saw in the responses," said Pat Murphy, director of government programs and diversity for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

The pilot program opened its doors in September 2007 with two co-teachers: Lannie Davis, a recent graduate of the University of Dayton, Ohio; and Dorian Settín, who has a master's degree in special education and 15 years' teaching experience at ABC Educational Services, which offers language-stimulation and other tutoring programs.

"This opportunity was so rare — to find a special education classroom in a Catholic school, to be able to be so close to my students and their parents — I couldn't pass it up," said Davis.

*"We love these kids and we know God has a plan for them."*

— Lannie Davis

The program can accommodate eight children, ages 7 to 11. A sixth student and a teacher's aide are expected to join the class soon.

The program couldn't have come at a better time for 11-year-old Megan Walton, who communicates largely through sign language. Last year she was the oldest student at ABC and had outgrown their language-stimulation program; her parents were considering homeschooling her.

"This been like a real school for her, and it's everything we hoped for," said her mother, Laura Walton.

Both Settín and Davis stressed how

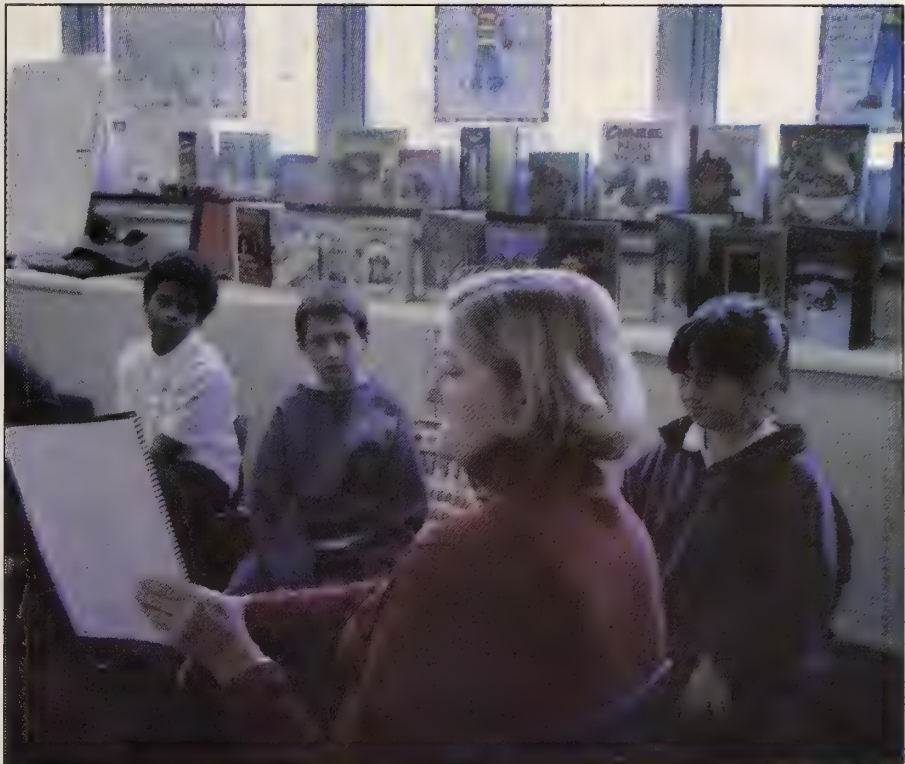


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Dorian Settín reads to students Maurice Gravely, Elias Morgan and Megan Walton Dec. 17, 2007.

important it is to their students' self-esteem that they have the same experiences as their siblings and schoolmates.

Three of the students have siblings in Catholic schools, including Megan, whose twin brother and another brother and sister, also twins, are enrolled at St. Matthew School in Charlotte.

"It means so much to them to wear the same uniform and to bring home the same report card as their siblings," said Settín.

Settín and Davis strive to give their students a full Catholic school experience, particularly their religious instruction; three of the students are preparing to receive first Communion.

"We try to take each individual child — where they are academically, spiritually — and continue their progress," said Settín.

"Being able to spend 45 minutes with one student on a task is wonderful," Davis said.

One of the biggest victories for the program has been the students' interactions with each other and with other St. Ann School students.

"Matthew is Megan's biggest advocate," Davis said. "He helps me interpret her signs when I don't understand her."

St. Ann School's students have embraced their new schoolmates as well. Some students have learned enough sign language to ask Megan to play with them, and the pilot program's students sit with their friends from other classrooms during lunch.

"What is so unique about our program is that we're both part of a larger school community and we're still a self-contained class," Davis said.

To prepare the St. Ann student body to greet their new schoolmates, Settín and Davis visited each classroom last fall and read a story about how every student learns differently.

"It's been wonderful for our students to see that there are children who are not necessarily handicapped, but who learn in a different way," said Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School.

Murphy said she hopes the pilot program will grow as the children grow, so they can have a similar program in middle school.

"We've watched these kids grow from some of them not talking at all (in September) to all of them communicating now," said Sister Nagle. "They've opened up like flowers, each in his or her own way."

Settín expects most of her students will eventually be able to join regular classrooms.

"When they're ready, we will mainstream them into as many programs as possible," she said.

"We love these kids and we know God has a plan for them," said Davis.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kaevans@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kaevans@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Elias Morgan watches a recording of "The Nutcracker" during music class at St. Ann School Dec. 17, 2007. Elias, who is a student in The Learning/Language Stimulation Pilot Program, attends music, art and other "specials" with other third-graders.

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# Southern Catholic leaders helpful in ending segregation

SOUTH, from page 1

Marianist-run University of Dayton, in Ohio, identified Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh, N.C., and the Society of Christ Our King, which had a convent in Danville, in her presentation, "Living With Jim Crow in Virginia and North Carolina: Black and White Catholic Experiences of Racial Segregation."

The two-hour panel focused on race, religion and gender issues in the South in the 35 years following World War II.

At the time of Bishop Waters' episcopal ministry, Moore said, North Carolina had the lowest percentage of Catholics of any state in the nation, hovering at about 1 percent.

Yet the bishop of what was then a statewide diocese decreed in 1954 that there would be no more segregation in Catholic high schools.

A year later, he ordered that Catholic elementary schools also be opened to African-American students.

Earlier, Bishop Waters — who was in charge of the Raleigh see for nearly 30 years — had decreed that the diocese would no longer build separate churches for black and white Catholics.

With these mandates, Moore said, "equal rights would be in effect in the church in North Carolina" and "racial prejudice would be a heresy in North Carolina."

The nuns in Danville took seriously the charge in the 1931 papal encyclical "Quadragesimo Anno" to "reconstruct society in the name of Christ," Moore said.

Their efforts, she added, were a combination of high-profile visibility and subterfuge.

When Hazel Carter, a black woman and the only Catholic in her Baptist family, started attending Sacred Heart Church in Danville — the only Catholic

Bishop Waters' mandates "would be in effect in the church in North Carolina" and "racial prejudice would be a heresy in North Carolina."

— Cecilia Moore

church in a 35-mile radius, Moore estimated — she took on the custom of sitting in the back of the congregation.

The sisters took note of this and, one Sunday, sat where black worshippers tended to sit. Carter sat in the pew in front of the sisters, according to Moore. The following Sunday, the sisters all moved up one pew, prompting Carter to do the same.

This continued for several weeks until Carter was in the middle of the congregation on Sundays.

Moore said Carter responded in part by serving as the godmother for eight baptisms in the late 1950s and early '60s — five adult blacks and the first three African-American children to be enrolled at Sacred Heart's grade school.

Because Catholics were so scarce in southern Virginia, the sisters were immediately recognizable — helped in part by a habit redesign that made the pages of Time magazine.

But after they participated en masse in a civil rights demonstration, Moore said, they were told by Bishop John Russell of Richmond that all clergy and religious were forbidden from taking part in public demonstrations.

The sisters could help the civil rights



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh ordains a priest during a Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh May 7, 1959.

movement from their convent, he added.

That they did. At the convent, they hosted teach-ins by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, one of the many civil rights groups springing up in the civil rights era in the South.

Committee members stayed at the convent when participating in a civil rights march in Danville, the last capital of the Confederate States of America.

Later, Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, also gave a teach-in at the convent and spent the night there prior to a march.

Moore said Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stopped by the convent late one night to thank the sisters for all their efforts.

The story cannot be verified; only the mother superior was awake at the time, "and she didn't wake any of the sisters" to meet Rev. King, Moore said.

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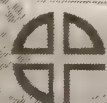
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## FROM THE COVER

# Pope warns diplomats that conflicts threaten global stability

DIPLOMATS, from page 1



CNS PHOTO BY MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets an ambassador to the Vatican during a meeting at the Vatican Jan. 8. The pope condemned violence throughout the world and said that respect for the human rights and legitimate aspirations of peoples is the only path to peace.

"At present, terrorist attacks, threats and violence continue, especially against the Christian community, and the news which arrived yesterday confirms our concern," he said.

Church officials said Jan. 6 that bombs had damaged four churches and three convents in Baghdad and Mosul in what appeared to be coordinated attacks.

Several people were reported injured.

In Iraq, the pope said, "it is clear that certain difficult political issues remain unresolved. In this context, an appropriate constitutional reform will need to safeguard the rights of minorities."

He said those affected by the Iraq War — including refugees and their host countries — need generous aid from the international community.

Turning to Iran, Pope Benedict expressed his support for "continued and uninterrupted pursuit of the path of diplomacy" in resolving the issue of Iran's nuclear program.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

he praised the results of the recent Annapolis, Md., peace conference, which he said pointed toward the "abandonment of partisan or unilateral solutions."

The important thing now is to implement the commitments that were made, he said.

In Lebanon, a country shaken by trials and violence, the people need to be able to freely decide their future, and political leaders should put aside selfish interests and pledge themselves to dialogue, he said.

The pope pointed to several "crisis situations" in Asia, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, two countries torn by violence, and Sri Lanka, where he said there can be no further delay in ending the "immense sufferings" caused by continuing civil strife.

He offered a prayer for a "season of dialogue" and respect for human rights in Myanmar.

He did not mention China in his speech. Last year, he wrote a lengthy letter to Chinese Catholics promoting greater church-state cooperation.

The pope began remarks on Africa by expressing his "deep anguish" at the ongoing cycle of hunger and death in Darfur, a western region of Sudan where hundreds of thousands have perished, and he said he hoped a new aid effort there can bring some relief.

He urged an end to military operations in Somalia to allow the delivery of humanitarian supplies, and said he was worried about the abrupt outbreak of ethnic violence in Kenya.

In Europe, he said, a definitive status for Kosovo needs to be determined in a way that respects the rights of all the inhabitants and avoids a return to "the specter of violence" in the Balkans.

Addressing the danger of nuclear armaments, the pope urged the international community to make "a global commitment on security" that can deal in particular with new threats from terrorism.

## "Diplomacy is, in a certain sense, the art of hope."

— Pope Benedict XVI

"A joint effort on the part of states to implement all the obligations undertaken and to prevent terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction would undoubtedly strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime and make it more effective," he said.

The pope also encouraged the reduction of conventional weapons and cluster bombs, considered a particular threat to civilians.

### Dignity of life, family

In a passage that hinted at a potential theme for his planned U.N. visit in April, the pope noted that 60 years ago the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined human dignity.

"In every continent the Catholic Church strives to ensure that human rights are not only proclaimed but put into practice," he said.

"The church willingly undertakes this service to the true dignity of human persons, created in the image of God. And on the basis of these considerations, I cannot but deplore once again the continual attacks perpetrated on every continent against human life," he said.

In bioethics, new discoveries or technological progress should not require people to choose between science and morality — "rather, they oblige us to a moral use of science," he said.

He said he rejoiced at the recent U.N. support for a moratorium on the death penalty and added: "I earnestly hope that this initiative will lead to public debate on the sacred character of human life."

Echoing a number of speeches to political and other groups over the last two years, the pope defended the traditional family.

"I regret, once again, the disturbing threats to the integrity of the family founded on the marriage of a man and a woman. Political leaders of whatever kind should defend this fundamental institution, the basic cell of society," he said.

He said religious freedom is still not fully respected in many parts of the world.

The pope closed his talk with a reflection on peace, which he said must involve various areas of human development: food, water and energy resources, access to medicine and technology, and even the monitoring of climate change.

In confronting these serious problems, diplomats should build on the positive, he said, telling them, "Diplomacy is, in a certain sense, the art of hope."

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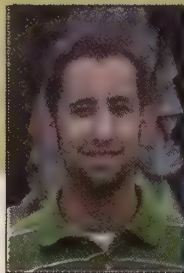
# A look at the current seminarians studying



**Jason Barone (24)**

Mount St. Mary's College & Seminary

Asheville native. Schools: Iona College, N.Y.; UNC-Chapel Hill. Priesthood because it's "about making the Gospel a reality in people's lives and building up the Kingdom of God. The only way to accomplish this goal is to know your own inadequacy and in humility ask for the grace to walk the road to Calvary."



**Joshua Bradford (19)**

Pontifical College Josephinum

Converted to Catholicism in 2006. Parish: St. Matthew Church, Charlotte. Priesthood because "I have a great desire to offer my life to the Lord in service of him and his church. It has been a wonderful experience thus far and I look forward to following God's call for many years to come."



**Noah Carter (19)**

Pontifical College Josephinum

Grew up in Mills River, N.C. Parish: St. Barnabas Church, Arden. Priesthood because "it is my way of giving everything to God so that he may work in and through me for the church."



**Gabriel Salazar Carvajal (49)**

Universidad Pontificia de Mexico

Native of Mexico. School: Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, N.Y. Parish: Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe-Candor. Priesthood because "my stewardship with the church has always been my focus and is God's will."



**Brian Kaup (23)**

Pontifical College Josephinum

Served in Air Force, mostly at Aviano Air Base in Italy. Priesthood because "I love helping people and I do not know of a better way to help people than to help as a priest. The greatest way to love is through the celebration of the Mass, which I want to be intimately connected to."



**Paul McNulty (23)**

Pontifical College Josephinum

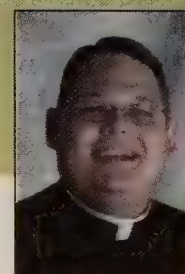
Charlotte native. School: UNC-Charlotte. Parish: St. Mark Church, Huntersville. Priesthood because "I felt it was time to answer the call to priesthood in order to do God's will."



**David Miller (28)**

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

One of 11 siblings. School: Franciscan University, Ohio. Parish: St. Aloysius Church, Hickory. Priesthood because "I have a strong desire to celebrate the sacraments for God's people and to teach and preach his Word."



**Benjamin Roberts (31)**

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Converted from Lutheranism to Catholicism in 1999. Planned to be a Lutheran pastor. Schools: Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory; D'Youville College, Buffalo, N.Y. Parish: St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville. Priesthood because "I want to pour out my life in service of Christ and his holy church."

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## Profiling a seminarian

The seminarians are men with a variety of interests, talents, hobbies and skills. They come from large and small families and live in cities or in small towns. They are alumni of a variety of high schools, colleges, professions and occupations. Some are young, some are older, and they come to a seminary with a variety of academic talents and spiritual gifts. They enjoy sports, music, hobbies and the company of others.



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# For priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte



**Jason Christian (25)**  
Pontifical College Josephinum

Charlotte native. School: South Mecklenburg High School. Parish: St. Matthew Church, Charlotte. Priesthood because "God gave me the grace to understand what he wanted me to do. Many signs have helped point me in the right direction. My experience in the seminary has been a great affirmation of my vocation to discovering the peace and joy of being in the midst of God's love and doing his will."



**Matthew Codd (25)**  
Mount St. Mary's College & Seminary

Born in Miami, Fla. Schools: N.C. State University, University of Illinois. Parish: St. Barnabas Church, Arden. Priesthood because it's "a life of integrity, service, fulfillment, and continuous growth. It is a way of life that should imitate Christ."



**John Eckert (26)**  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Grew up in Peoria, Ill.; moved to Charlotte in 2006. School: St. Louis University. Parish:

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte. Priesthood because "I want to spend my life glorifying God and offering true and lasting happiness to everyone I encounter. I cannot imagine a better life than one dedicated to these two goals, and God is calling me to strive after them as a priest."



**Deacon Brad Jones (36)**  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

A Greensboro native. Convert to Catholicism. Schools: UNC Greensboro; Catholic University of America, Washington; Angelicum University, Rome; Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C. Ordained to transitional diaconate Dec. 22, 2007; to be ordained to priesthood June 7, 2008. Priesthood because "I have perceived a vocation from God to the priesthood, and through the years grown in my desire to serve the Lord and his church."



**Peter Shaw (24)**  
Pontifical College Josephinum

Father is Deacon William Shaw at St. Pius X Church, Greensboro. School: N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. Priesthood because "I believe it is the best way to serve the Lord."



**Joel Stroot (24)**  
Pontifical College Josephinum  
Born in Belleville, Ill. Priesthood because he is "discerning a great sense of how God works in his

life. I want to know the Creator through his creations."



**Deacon Tri Vinh Truong (33)**  
Mount St. Mary's College & Seminary  
Native of Vietnam. School: St. Xavier University, Chicago.

Ordained to transitional diaconate Feb. 18, 2007; will be ordained to priesthood June 7, 2008. Priesthood because "I want to serve Christ, his church and to seek salvation of others. I want to teach people about Christ's love and salvation for us through his holy church."



**Joshua Voitus (25)**  
Mount St. Mary's College & Seminary

Schools: Forsyth Technical Community College, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College; graduated from Pontifical College Josephinum. Parish: Holy Family Church, Clemmons. Priesthood because "I am being called to love and serve God with my entire soul, mind and strength. I feel that God has called me to do this in particular by being a priest serving the Diocese of Charlotte."

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**Richard Worthington (30)**  
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Native of New Jersey. Schools: St. Ann School, Charlotte Catholic High School; Naval Academy, Navy Nuclear Power School, Charleston, S.C. Parish: St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville. Priesthood because "God wants me to be a priest. I will be happiest as a priest."

## HAVE A CALLING?

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For more information about vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, including women religious and the permanent diaconate, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/vocations.html).



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Maryland pastor explores Asian saints in new book

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE — Not long before he was to be ordained a Jesuit priest in 16th-century Japan, St. Paul Miki was captured and forced to march with his companions more than 1,000 miles as part of a national campaign of persecution of Christians.

Sentenced to die by crucifixion, the young man was said to have described the cross as "the noblest pulpit" he ever filled.

While hanging on a cross on Nagasaki Hill, the saint was heard forgiving the emperor and begging the Japanese leader and his executioners to "seek baptism and be Christians themselves."

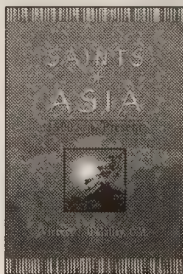
The heroic martyrdom of St. Paul Miki is just one of many stories of bravery and faith recounted in "Saints of Asia, 1500 to the Present," a new book by Vincentian Father Vincent J. O'Malley.

The 220-page reference book is the fifth book on saints written by the pastor of St. Joseph Church in Emmitsburg, Md. It is the culmination of three years of research.

"What most impressed me are those saints who are renowned for their courage in venturing into new geographical territories and new cultural and spiritual territories," said Father O'Malley, who visited many shrines, museums, religious communities and diocesan offices across Asia while researching the book.

For all the canonized saints who were martyred, there are tens of thousands of Catholics who have never been canonized who also died for their faith in Asia, Father O'Malley said.

"They died without rancor," he said. "They suffered very ritualistic torture



and they accepted it and died forgiving their persecutors."

Father O'Malley said he was happy to discover that many Asian saints, especially missionaries, made attempts to incorporate elements of Asian culture in Christianity.

St. Matteo Ricci, for example, shared Western learning with the Chinese and was received as a "revered elder," Father O'Malley said.

The Jesuit priest translated the Ten Commandments into Chinese and wrote a catechism in that language, the author said.

"He respected the Chinese wisdom, learning and religious insights," said Father O'Malley, noting that St. Matteo wore Chinese silk robes.

The pastor said it was very difficult for the church to make inroads in Asia because sophisticated religions like Confucianism, Buddhism and Shintoism preceded Christianity by many hundreds of years.

Today, only 3 percent of Asia is Catholic, Father O'Malley said.

"Saints of Asia" includes biographies of canonized saints and those who are being considered for canonization by the Vatican. The profiles are arranged chronologically by feast day and include representatives from 21 countries.

## Two authors get top books awards from Catholic historical association

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two books about the exploits of Jesuits in very different times and places took the top awards during the American Catholic Historical Association's annual meeting in Washington.

Liam Matthew Brockey, an assistant professor of history at Princeton University in New Jersey, received the John Gilmary Shea Prize and \$750 for his book, "Journey to the East: The Jesuit Mission to China, 1579-1724," judged the best work on the history of the Catholic Church published in the 12-month period that ended June 30.

Jesuit Father Gerald McKevitt, professor of Jesuit studies at Santa Clara University in California, won the Howard R. Marraro Prize and \$500 for "Brokers of Culture: Italian Jesuits in the American West, 1848-1919."

The Shea prize is named for a famous historian of American Catholicism who died in 1892; the award is given annually

to the American or Canadian author who has made the most original and significant contribution to the historiography of the Catholic Church.

In presenting the award, Father Charles Talar of St. Mary's Seminary in Houston called Brockey's work "an ambitious undertaking" that required "a grasp of Chinese, European and Catholic history."

The Marraro prize is named for an author and professor at Columbia University in New York who died in 1972.

The award is given annually to the author of a distinguished scholarly work dealing with Italian history or Italo-American history or relations.

"The book shows how the missionaries' Italian cultural background helped to shape their efforts at conversion and ... their interactions with others in a rapidly changing multicultural environment," said Kenneth Gouwens, professor of history at the University of Connecticut, in presenting the award.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 20, 2008

Jan. 20, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6  
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3  
Gospel: John 1:29-34

## When God communicates, we must listen, respond

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few years ago I had the pleasure — and the challenge — of teaching 3-year-olds. Their inquisitive, energetic nature sometimes made it difficult to get their attention or maintain their focus.

For instance, one particularly active little boy simply did not respond when I called him from across the room.

What I had to learn early on is that the best way to communicate with people half my size was to get down on their level. For one thing, crouching or sitting down while talking to a toddler makes it easier for both parties to hear.

But more importantly, establishing eye contact at the child's level helps him or her to feel respected and important. I found that with my rambunctious toddler

boys, specific instructions were best given after I had taken the time to truly listen, face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball.

In this Sunday's readings there are several examples of God's special call to different people and their responses to that call.

But before the call can be issued, before a response can be returned, there is the assurance that God has surely listened to our cries. Indeed we are able to have "ears open to obedience" because God models what it means to be a good listener.

In much the same way that I crouch to a toddler's level in order to converse more effectively, God meets us halfway by "stooping toward us," not merely with eyes and ears, but in the person of his son, Jesus, who makes possible our communication with God at its most profound level.

The waiting of Advent is at an end and the feast of Christmas has passed. But the ongoing exchange between God and humanity depends in part upon our predisposition — our willingness to place ourselves in a posture of obedient listening.

### Questions:

How has the Lord heard your cry lately? In what way can you predispose yourself to hear what God's call is to you?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"He stooped toward me and heard my cry" (Psalm 40:2).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 13-19

Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord), Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; Monday, 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; Tuesday, 1 Samuel 1:9-20, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Mark 1:21-28; Wednesday, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mark 1:29-39; Thursday (St. Anthony), 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mark 1:40-45; Friday, 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mark 2:1-12; Saturday, 1 Samuel 9:1-14, 17-19; 10:1, Mark 2:13-17.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 20-26

Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; Monday (St. Agnes), 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; Tuesday (St. Vincent), 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; Wednesday, 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; Thursday (St. Francis de Sales), 1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; Friday (Conversion of Saint Paul), Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; Saturday (Sts. Timothy and Titus), 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:20-21.

## Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?

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## Catholic rock duo dedicates new single to Pope Benedict XVI

BY KAT WAGNER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MADISON, Wis. — In their first release since a self-titled album in 2006, Oremus, a Catholic rock duo from Madison, is hoping listeners will find the truth in their new single honoring Pope Benedict XVI.

"If you're looking for the truth, the church has got it," said Chris Reitz, the guitarist and co-vocalist for Oremus, of the message contained in "The Song of Benedict."

In a world where truth often gets lost, Chris Reitz, 23, and his brother Tom, 20, say they are trying to reach out to their peers with a Catholic counterbalance to heavy metal bands like Metallica and Guns N' Roses.

"We're trying to show there's a better alternative out there," Chris Reitz said.

Through an infusion of rock with faith, they show that "you can be Catholic and cool at the same time," Tom said.

The brothers, regular Massgoers at Madison's downtown parishes who often participate in perpetual adoration at Holy Redeemer Church, have been performing music since their childhood and were members of a church choir for several years.

They officially started their band in 2004, naming it Oremus, Latin for "let us pray." Chris Reitz is the guitarist and Tom plays the keyboard, though both do the vocals on the various songs.

They work together to compose and write the lyrics for their music.

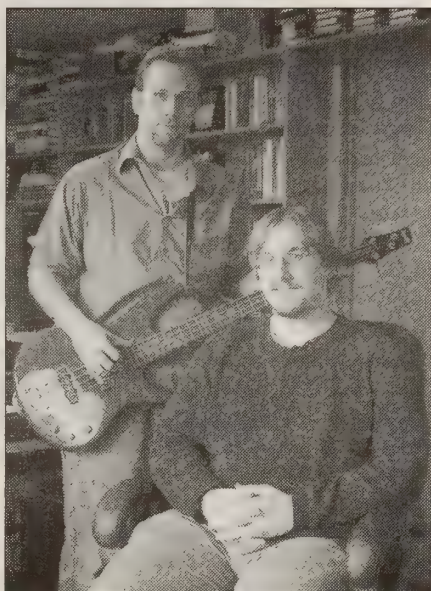
"A theme in our band has been that you can be Catholic and be cool," said Tom Reitz. "Cool guys can go to Mass and be Catholic; it's not something you should be ashamed about."

They played their first gig at the Schoenstatt Heights festival on the west side of Madison and have performed at several other venues, including the Elizabeth House Walk for Life, the Madison diocesan family picnic and the St. Ann Fall Festival in Stoughton.

They have also been highlighted on Relevant Radio.

In 2006 the duo released their self-titled debut album, which featured their take on modern Christian songs and older Catholic standards such as "Let All Mortal Flesh," as well as several songs composed by the brothers.

The compact disc, like the band, was dedicated to the new evangelization of



CNS PHOTO BY KAT WAGNER, CATHOLIC HERALD

Chris and Tom Reitz, who compose and perform music under the name Oremus, pose for a photo in late November 2007 at their home in Madison, Wis. The Catholic rock band released a new single, "The Song of Benedict," Dec. 8, 2007.

the late Pope John Paul II.

The new single is dedicated to his successor. The song imagines him "speaking from my window, hope someone will hear. Listen to the truth, now. Romans, lend me your ear."

The duo decided to release the single instead of waiting to include it on their next CD because the message is so important.

"I think everyone is looking for the truth, whether you know it or not," said Tom Reitz.

But the culture at large, the "dictatorship of relativism," says there is no standard, Chris Reitz said.

"And for someone who's looking for a benchmark, saying 'what should I do with my life?' that's not a very satisfying answer," he said. "We're trying to say, well, you might want to check out the church — they might have some answers for you."

"Here you've got a rock song, and you're portraying the pope in a very good way in this song, so maybe, if they haven't realized it before, it'll make people realize that he's a good guy, and it'll also open up a discussion about the truth," he said.

"Music is a very powerful medium," Chris Reitz said. "Why not use it to make that point?"

## Veggies ahoy!



CNS PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL

Animated characters Princess Eloise, Elliot, George and Sedgewick are seen in the movie "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie," a breezy computer-animated children's adventure in which a trio of self-doubting anthropomorphized vegetables who work at a pirate-themed dinner theater get the chance to prove their mettle when they're transported back in time and given the chance to save a prince and princess.

It is a wholesome, thoroughly enjoyable film that, despite some technical limitations, manages to convey its message about the real nature of heroism quite effectively. Some mild bathroom references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. All ages admitted.

## Nun, described as Poland's best cook, releases DVD with culinary tips

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish nun who thought up her best cake recipe in a dream has released a special DVD with tips on her culinary masterpieces.

"When I first joined my order, I asked to work in the kitchen," said Sister Anastazja Pustelnik, a member of the Daughters of Divine Love.

"I spent years cooking for the Jesuit fathers in Krakow, and they liked my recipes so much they proposed publishing them. I thought they meant some kind of brochure," she said.

"I never suspected it would lead to several books," she said.

Sister Pustelnik spoke at a specially

convened press conference at the Polish bishops' conference headquarters in mid-December.

The nun, whose four recipe books already have sold 850,000 copies, spoke at the release of "Sister Anastazja's Cookery School," which shows her preparing some of her tastiest delights.

She said she had inherited some recipes from her parents and others from older nuns, but had thought up most herself, including the very best, "A Nun's Secret," which came to her in a dream.

"I made the cake in my sleep," Sister Pustelnik said. "When I woke up in the morning, I wrote it all down and then cooked it in the kitchen, and it turned out rather nicely."

The nun said most of her cakes had been given their names by voracious Jesuits. One cake, "The Happy Mountaineer," is noted for its high alcoholic content.

She said she personally preferred traditional Polish fare, such as sour soup and steamed cabbage, but added that she also had up to 100 different cheese recipes.

In a statement, Poland's Jesuit-run WAM publishers described Sister Pustelnik, whose books include "103 Cakes" and "100 New Cakes," as "the republic's greatest cook."

The publishing house added that it planned a follow-up DVD featuring the nun's wackiest dinners "if the current DVD meets with approval from clients."

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## Father Francis Connolly: 1927-2008

*Diocesan priest served churches across N.C.*

HIGH POINT — Father Frank Connolly, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died Wednesday, Jan. 2, at Pennybyrn at Maryfield in High Point.

A memorial Mass was celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone Jan. 11.

Born in Plainfield, N.J., on Jan. 22, 1927, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. Following his military service, he attended Rutgers University in New Jersey, graduating in 1950 with a degree in forestry before pursuing post-graduate study at Duke University in Durham in 1952.

After a short career in North Carolina's furniture industry, he entered Christ the King Seminary in New York in 1955. A year later, he transferred to the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 20, 1959.

After further study in Rome, Father Connolly returned to North Carolina in July 1960. He served as an assistant pastor and pastor at churches throughout the state — including churches in Asheboro, Boone, Concord, Franklin, Greensboro, High Point, Lenoir and North Wilkesboro — during the 1960s and 1970s. After the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, he also served as vicar forane of its Greensboro and Boone vicariates.

While serving as pastor in Durham, he was campus minister at Duke University. He also served as a diocesan consultor, a member of the presbyteral council, director of the Diocesan Support Appeal, assistant spiritual director and coordinator for the Cursillo movement, and an executive board member of Catholic Social Services.

During most of his pastorates, Father Connolly also served as a member of ministerial associations and was involved in ecumenical activities. He was a



Father Francis Connolly

founder of the Coalition of Churches and Hospitality House of Boone, a service provider for the homeless.

He also held statewide positions as president of the Yokefellow Prison Ministries and member of the Pastoral Ministry Task Force on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and N.C. Department of Corrections Advisory Commission on Pastoral Ministry.

Father Connolly retired to Boone in 2000 before moving to Pennybyrn last year. During his illness, he received hospice care and was attended by loving friends from Boone and Greensboro.

To show their appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the parish, Father Joseph Mulligan, current pastor, and parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church announced the establishment of the Rev. Francis Connolly Endowment Fund Jan. 21, 2007, during the parish celebration of Father Connolly's 80th birthday.

Father Connolly is survived by two cousins, Msgr. William Toohy of New York and Mary Hyson of Greenwich, Conn.

Memorials may be made to the Rev. Francis Connolly Endowment for St. Elizabeth Church, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203; Hospitality House, PO Box 309, Boone, NC 28607; or Hospice of Piedmont, 1801 Westchester Dr., High Point, NC 27262.

## Mercy Sister Mary de Montfort Stilwell: 1930-2008

*Sister remembered for devotion, humble nature*

BELMONT — Sister Mary de Montfort Stilwell, 77, died Saturday, Jan. 5, at Mariah Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1960, and was in her 48th year as a Sister of Mercy.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel Jan. 8, with burial following in the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Stilwell was born Joyce Mary Stilwell Nov. 4, 1930 in Lynchburg, Va. She took her religious name upon entering the Sisters of Mercy Aug. 21, 1959. After taking her vows as a woman religious, she studied at Gaston College, Sacred Heart College and the University of North Carolina at Asheville where she earned her nurse's aide certification.

During her years of service, she ministered at Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh and worked as an elementary educator at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, St. Michael School in Gastonia and St. Eugene School in Asheville.

She ministered at Holy Angels in Belmont before returning to teaching at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte through 1994. In 1996, following many years of ministry in diocesan schools, Sister Stilwell transitioned to ministry as a respite coordinator at Little Flower Retirement Center in Charlotte.

In 2002, she then became a caregiver at Eldercare Convalescent Service in Charlotte, where she continued her ministry until recently.

Throughout her life, Sister Stilwell exhibited an incredible loyalty and devotion to her family and her fellow women religious, and approached her ministry as an extension of her religious community and family.

During a 2001 interview on high quality assisted living centers, Sister Stilwell was asked about her ministry at Little Flower.

"We have a lot of sorrow, a lot of joy. There's a bondedness. It's more a family than a nursing home, assisted living or



Mercy Sister Mary de Montfort Stilwell

workplace," she said.

Always humble and unassuming, very few people outside of those at Little Flower realized she was honored by the North Carolina Assisted Living Association in Raleigh as a nominee for their 2002 Caregiver Award.

Her devotion to the Blessed Virgin and her active participation in local prayer circles were well known to her community, friends and family, as was her affinity for gardening. Her dahlias frequently reached the size of dinner plates and certainly graced more than one dinner table.

The heirloom roses beloved by her predecessors, Sisters Mary Magdalen Becker and Mary Jarlath McGarry, continued to receive tender, loving care during Sister Stilwell's watch.

Sister Stilwell was the daughter of the late Elmo Harris Stilwell and Thelma Beatrice Layne Stilwell. She was preceded in death by a sister, Doris Stilwell Staton; and three brothers, Cecil Stilwell, Stephen Stilwell and Claude Stilwell.

She is survived by her regional community; by three sisters, Sandra Stilwell Boatright, Barbara Ramsey and Frances Stilwell Mayberry; a brother, Vincent Stilwell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina, 100 Mercy Dr., Belmont, NC 28012-4805.

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Payment: For information, call (704) 370-3332.

## Natural Family Planning Program Director



The Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services is seeking a director for the Natural Family Planning (NFP) program. Position requires teacher certification in a nationally recognized NFP method, ability to travel, and openness to working with all NFP methods. Full-time employment with benefits will be offered.

For more information on this position, visit [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org). To be considered for this position, please submit a resume by January 31, 2008 to:

Gerard A. Carter  
Catholic Social Services  
1123 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203-4003



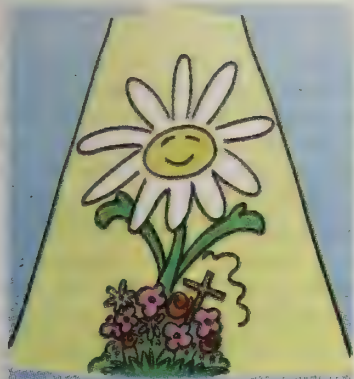
# Lighting the history of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte

With Catholic Schools Week Jan. 27-Feb. 2, this year themed "Catholic Schools Light the Way," here is a look at the history of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Join us to learn exciting, "outside the box" ways to spread the Good News!

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## First Catholic educational institutions in western North Carolina

Father Maginnis School, Charlotte: 1827  
Belmont Abbey, Belmont: 1876  
Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Hickory: 1880  
Precursor to Sacred Heart School, Salisbury: 1882  
St. Mary's Seminary, Charlotte: 1887  
Sacred Heart Academy, Belmont: 1892  
St. Genevieve of the Pines, Asheville: 1908  
St. Benedict School, Belmont: 1910  
St. Leo Junior Military Academy, Belmont: 1910  
Immaculata School, Hendersonville: 1926  
St. Benedict School, Greensboro: 1926  
St. Joan of Arc School, Asheville: 1927  
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Greensboro: 1928

## Diocese of Charlotte Catholic schools FUN FACTS

— **A first for Charlotte:** In western North Carolina, the first Catholic school opened 180 years ago in the Charlotte home of Father John Maginnis, which served also as the first Catholic chapel.

— **It could have been BACS instead of MACS:** In 1956, Belmont had more Catholic schools than Charlotte. Belmont had Belmont Abbey College, Sacred Heart Academy and Grade School, St. Leo Junior Military Academy and St. Benedict School. Charlotte had only three schools: O'Donoghue, St. Ann and Our Lady of the Assumption.

— **Interesting statistics:** In 1958, there were 35 Catholic educational institutions in the future Diocese of Charlotte (founded in 1972); today, there are only 19. In 1961, there were seven Catholic high schools; today, there are only two.

— **Hard to keep up with:** Throughout its 120-year history, St. Patrick School had three different locations and four different names: St. Mary's Seminary, St. Peter, O'Donoghue Hall and St. Patrick.

— **Sisters of education:** Out of the 46 Catholic educational institutions operated within the 46-county territory of the Diocese of Charlotte, the Sisters of Mercy staffed 16.

— **Requirements for admission:** One of the earliest educational institutions in western North Carolina, Mt. St. Joseph's Academy in Hickory made a saddle and riding habit mandatory for school admission.

— **Small beginning:** When St. Gabriel School in Charlotte opened in 1958, there was only one grade — kindergarten — and the class met in the sacristy of St. Gabriel Church.

## Spotlight on 3 Catholic schools

### St. Leo's Junior Military Academy — Belmont

A boarding school for boys in first-through eighth-grades, this school was founded in 1910 and named for Bishop

Leo Haid, the first abbot of Belmont Abbey and vicar apostolic of North Carolina. The mission of the school, which closed in 1962, was to help develop the mind and body through military training and to provide students with a solid foundation for high school.

### Villa Marie Anna Academy — Winston-Salem

This institution first opened as a girls' academy in 1954 with only a ninth grade, but by 1958 boys had been admitted and additional grades added so that there was a graduating class. Villa Marie Anna Academy, which held classes in a converted mansion, was short-lived and in 1959 was replaced with Bishop McGuinness High School.

### St. John Vianney Hall — Asheville

Opening in 1961, this was a place where young men of high school age discerned a calling to the priesthood in a well-structured seminary atmosphere. They would live and pray communally while attending regular classes at Asheville Catholic High School and courses suited for potential priests of the Diocese of Raleigh. This pre-seminary closed in 1969.

— diocesan Archives Department



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## 28th Cardinal Newman Lecture

9:30 am - 4 pm Saturday, February 16th

**Dr. Scott Appleby**

Dr. Appleby directs the Joan Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. His work examines the roots of religious violence and the potential for religious peace building.

The Newman Lecture is an annual gift to the regional church to celebrate the life and ministry of Cardinal John Henry Newman. The schedule includes noon Eucharist and a chamber music concert.

**This event is open to all without charge or pre-registration.**



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Some signs of hope for ending death penalty

*Confusion on Catholic teaching lies with individual failure*

The United Nations vote on a death penalty moratorium found the United States standing with such paragons of human rights as China, Iran, Iraq and Syria in defending the indefensible.

A resolution to declare a worldwide moratorium on the use of capital punishment passed by 99-52 in a committee vote and was subsequently approved by the U.N. General Assembly last month with 104 nations in favor, 54 (including the United States) opposed and 29 abstentions.

The nonbinding resolution called for a moratorium on executions "with a view to abolishing the death penalty." That such a resolution would be favored by a two-to-one margin is a hopeful sign that the forces moving against capital punishment — the Catholic Church among them — are gaining momentum.

There was even better news last month when the New Jersey legislature passed and the governor signed a bill to abolish the death penalty in that state, joining 13 other states and the District of Columbia that do not have capital punishment.

Fewer people were sentenced to death in 2007 than in any year since 1976, when the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

There were 42 executions in 2007 — the fewest in the past 13 years. The executions were limited to 10 states, with Texas responsible for 26, the center reported.

The U.N. resolution calling for a moratorium rather than outright abolition was seen as a strategic move to maximize support.

In the United States, the Supreme

**Extra!  
Extra!**

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



Court has created a virtual moratorium by blocking all executions by lethal injection until it decides if the method amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

A moratorium addresses the problem as a practical matter but not one of principle.

It requires, as it did of the New Jersey legislature, a great deal of courage to vote for abolition in a political climate when a "soft on crime" label can end a political career.

During the debate in New Jersey, it was said that "there is confusion in the church" over the issue.

There shouldn't be. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, popes and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops all clearly spell out the church's opposition to the death penalty in all but the most limited situations.

If there is confusion, it is not for lack of clear teaching but of a failure of individual responsibility to discern and integrate those teachings in the formation of conscience.

While the United Nations resolution is nonbinding, when the nations of the world say capital punishment is an offense to human rights, it is embarrassing to be on the wrong side of the question.

There is a discomfort with the United States being linked to those countries we decry as savage for their jurisprudence that employs stoning, amputations and lashings.

There is good news in the trend of strong international opposition and the reduction of death sentences and executions in the United States.

"There is a growing awareness in the human family of the value of life, of the dignity of every person and of the concept of a nonvindictive punishment," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, a Vatican spokesman, about the U.N. resolution.

The vote, he said, is "a sign of hope and a step forward on the way to peace."

That hope may be realized in the United States when more see the question from the perspective of a Christian teaching, not a "CSI" or "Law and Order" script.

## The Catholic Church's theology of salvation

*Q. A Jewish friend tells me that, according to her rabbi, Catholics believe that if she dies without accepting Jesus as her Messiah and savior she will go to hell: "If Hitler had accepted Jesus and requested forgiveness before he died, he would be saved, while the children he killed in the gas chambers would not. Does this seem right?"*

*How can I reply? (Louisiana)*

A. If your friend is quoting her rabbi correctly, he is wrong. The Catholic Church does not teach what is reflected in his remark.

I cannot deny that many Catholics and other Christians have believed it. That some groups, even nations, calling themselves Catholic have believed this and even acted on it I also cannot deny.

But while some official church statements have been at best ambiguous about explicit belief in Jesus Christ and/or membership in the Catholic Church being necessary for salvation, Catholic teaching today is clear.

Within the past two generations, through a host of official documents and papal letters and discourses, the church has repeated its position that the great non-Christian religions represent part of the sincere effort of people everywhere to find answers to the huge, haunting questions about life and death and God.

Furthermore, these efforts, sometimes noble and sometimes erroneous, represent the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. They take place, we believe, under the influence of Jesus, the incarnate Word of God, whose saving grace and love lie underneath all honest searches for truth, even if those searches do not always lead to explicit belief and faith in him.

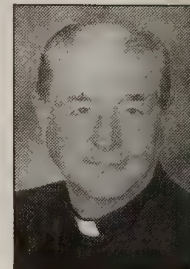
Such belief is not new. The principle is an ancient one in Christianity: God's saving grace is there for everyone who does not deliberately place an obstacle to that gift.

One classic statement to that effect comes from Pope Leo IV (853) during a controversy with certain heretics of his day.

"Just as there is no human being past, present or future whose nature was not assumed by Jesus Christ, our Lord," said Pope Leo, "so there is no human being past, present or future for whom he did not suffer and die."

### Question Corner

FATHER JAMES  
DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



Any failure to profit from that death would derive only from a deliberate refusal to believe when one clearly recognizes that such a belief is God's will.

The Second Vatican Council reaffirmed this position.

The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, for example, declares that, while the church always remembers its mission to proclaim that the fullness of religious life is found in Christ, it also "looks with sincere respect on those ways of conduct and of life, those rules and teachings which, though differing in many particulars from what she holds and sets forth, nevertheless often reflect a ray of that truth which enlightens all people." (No. 2).

The misunderstanding of your Jewish friend is unfortunate. It should forcefully remind us of another sentence in that same declaration: "All should take pains that, in catechetical instruction and in preaching the Word of God, nothing is taught out of harmony with the truth of the Gospel and the Spirit of Christ, which is a spirit of love and respect, not of hate and rejection" (No. 4).

All this applies in a particular way to our Jewish brothers and sisters, the people with whom we believe God established his first covenants, and through whom we have received so much of our Christian faith.

*A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.)*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

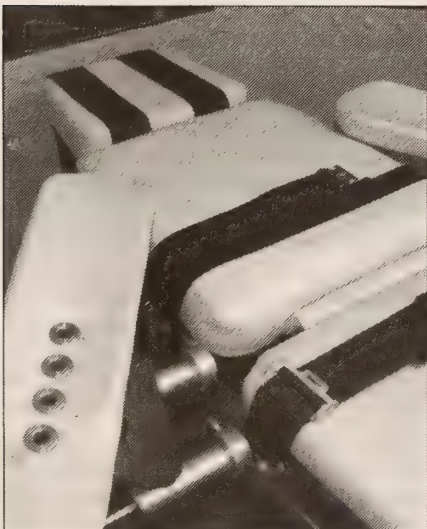
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The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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The lethal injection table where executions are carried out at San Quentin State Prison in California.



# Where the road from Bethlehem leads us

## We journey faithfully toward reunion with Christ

It was early morning on a cold Monday, and as the rush hour traffic began to snake through the icy streets, the morning headlights reminded me of so many Christmas lights still determined to shine despite the end of the holidays.

We were arriving at the airport to see my daughter off on her way back home to the East Coast. She spent a good part of the holidays with us, a blessing indeed, and now it was time for everyone to get back to jobs and routine.

After she checked her luggage, we headed with her to the security line. The airport in Anchorage, Alaska, teems with tourists in the summer, but on this dark mid-winter morning, it seemed slow and unusually quiet: no line at security, no excuse to delay.

Suddenly, loud wailing pierced the calm. Sobbing, no-holds-barred weeping, the kind that makes you turn around and look before you remember that's not polite.

It was a young girl, maybe 10 years old, and the object of her grief was the grandparent-aged couple taking their shoes off in the security line. Obviously they had just said goodbye.

Occasionally the grandparents would turn around and put their fingers to their lips, but this did nothing to quiet the mourning that filled the terminal and

seemed somehow to involve us all.

My daughter hugged me one last time, her cheeks covered with her own tears.

"Well, at least I'm crying quietly," she joked, and off she went.

On the ride home, I couldn't get that little girl's sobs off my mind. There was something so real and untamed about them.

They evoked a raw truth about the separation that is so much a part of human existence and that seems to end with an exclamation point at Christmas.

Christmas is full of homecomings, but every homecoming has its goodbye. Christmas itself is God's homecoming, God coming to dwell among us.

But just as children leave and hurry off to lives that no longer are so close to ours, Christ, who still dwells with us, didn't linger in Bethlehem.

This year my parish joined an ecumenical Christmas effort coordinated by parish nurses to "journey to Bethlehem."

It was a combined exercise and meditation program, and by the time Christmas arrived, hundreds of Christians around town had walked miles to equal a trip to Bethlehem.

As I put away my Christmas creche this year, I thought about that "walk" to Bethlehem, and as I wrapped each

### For the Journey

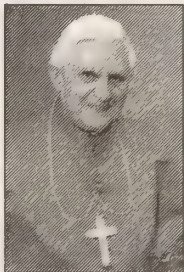
EFFIE CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



### Pope says St. Augustine's conversion like that of many youths today

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As a young man, St. Augustine, like many young Catholics today, left the practice of the faith for a time, but his search for truth and meaning eventually led to his conversion, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Continuing his series of audience talks about early church theologians, the pope Jan. 9 gave the first of what he said would be several talks about St. Augustine, who lived 354-430, and was the subject of his doctoral dissertation when he was Father Joseph Ratzinger.

Briefly presenting St. Augustine's biography, the pope said he was "a man of passion, of faith, of very high intelligence and of untiring pastoral concern."

In addition, he said, St. Augustine is "the father of the church that left us the greatest number of works" and, in fact, "it seems impossible that one man could have written so much in one lifetime."

Pope Benedict said St. Augustine's mother, St. Monica, was a devout Christian and educated him in the faith.

Although "he always was fascinated by the figure of Jesus," St. Augustine increasingly distanced himself from the faith and the life of the church, "just as happens today with many young people," the pope said. But "even if he had left the practice of the faith he was always in search of the truth," read voraciously and "was convinced that without Jesus the truth could not be found."

Disappointed at the lack of philosophical depth in the Bible, St. Augustine went in search of a religion that corresponded to his desire for truth and for Jesus, but one which also had a highly developed philosophy, the pope said.

He thought he found the answer among the Manichaeans, "who presented themselves as Christians and promised that their religion was completely rational. They affirmed that the world is divided into two principles — good and evil," which they believed explained all the struggles inherent in human life, Pope Benedict said.

"Their dualistic morality pleased St. Augustine because there was a very strict morality for the elite, but the adherents like him could live in a way more convenient for the situation of a young man of that time," he said.

But the Manichaeans could not respond to all his doubts and eventually, after listening repeatedly to the preaching of St. Ambrose in Milan, he was baptized.

"His conversion to Christianity Aug. 15, 386, came as the culmination of a long and tormented interior journey, which we will discuss in another catechesis," the pope said.

# No longer churchgoers

## Liturgies can, should be antithesis of frenzied society

Why do Catholics stop attending Mass?

This question was asked in a recent study conducted by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

More than disagreeing with church doctrines, the sex abuse scandals or busy weekends, Catholics miss Mass because they "no longer feel that being a committed Catholic requires this."

One respondent said, "It may just have been that there aren't enough reasons to go, and I'm tired of trying to make an effort in so many directions."

If it's true that Sunday Mass is no longer seen as an obligation, what are the causes behind this, and what might be some remedies?

One known cause is that our present Catholic school system and the times we live in have changed.

In the past, sisters, brothers and priests were the backbone of Catholic schools, and it was taken for granted that Sunday Mass was a serious obligation.

Students routinely went to Mass as

part of a cherished Catholic tradition.

But we can't live in the past. We now live in a new era where the obligation of Sunday Mass must be seen in a new light. What might this be?

Perhaps instead of presenting the Mass as a serious obligation [which it is], we should see it as a blessed privilege.

Instead of emphasizing its law-binding side, perhaps it would be better to emphasize its power to free us from the tyrannies of daily life.

When Mass is celebrated properly, its strengthening, freeing and soothing powers are awesome. It generates peace where there is anxiety, courage where there is fear, hope where there is despair and love where there is resentment.

In the fourth century, St. Ambrose wrote, "Let your sermons be full of understanding. ... Let no word escape your lips in vain or be uttered without depth of meaning."

If homilies better addressed the unique situation of the people, and if the wisdom of our Catholic tradition were

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



better applied to worldly anxieties, those who no longer attend Mass might just find they have no reason for missing it.

During the feast of St. Cecilia, we are reminded of the wholesome depths to which good music and liturgy can take us.

If our liturgies created a more profound atmosphere of sacred stillness that is the direct antithesis of our frenzied society, those who bypass them just might come in out of the cold and find the warmth they consciously or unconsciously seek.

If those who avoid Mass could experience a faith community concerned for the poor, suffering and weary, they just might be inspired to be an integral part of it.

The more reasonable the Mass is, the more unreasonable it is to miss it.





CNS PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY

Jennifer Apuuno, assisted by Felicia Acom, builds a new roof on her family's hut in Akamuriei, Uganda, Dec. 11, 2007. Families who have been displaced by internal conflict for years have returned to Akamuriei, their village of origin. After more than two decades of violence in northern Uganda, peace talks that began in 2006 have led to a small number of displaced people returning home.

# Rebuilding a nation and a people

*Taking final steps to lasting peace in Uganda not easy, says priest*

BY PAUL JEFFREY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

KITGUM, Uganda — Corrina Akongo has harvested sweet potatoes from her own land for the first time in years.

After more than a decade of living in a crowded camp for internally displaced persons, surviving on food donated by the international community, she came home to her ancestral village of Amuca in April just in time to plant.

As the new year began, she harvested grass for the roof of a thatched hut and dug her sweet potatoes from the ground.

"It seems like forever that we've been waiting for peace," she said. "I couldn't wait to get back home and start my life again."

After more than two decades of violence, people of northern Uganda are enjoying a respite from the bloody conflict between the rebel Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan government.

Peace talks that began in 2006 in Juba, Sudan, have progressed slowly but steadily, and a small number of the almost 2 million internally displaced people have returned to their ancestral villages.

Father Matthew Ojara, pastor of Christ the King parish in Kitgum, said the lull in fighting has allowed some people to restart their lives.

"There's huge psychological relief now. People are relieved to be able to return home, to do some farming, though still on a small scale and not very far from the camps," he said. "Most people remain in the camps, though, waiting. Their past experience of running for their lives, of being abducted, of girls being raped, of killings and night commuting, all that is still fresh in their minds."

"They want to see the two sides sign a permanent and lasting peace agreement. Until then, they'll wait in the camps, which are a sign of their pain and suffering," he said.

For years, thousands of children known as "night commuters" left their rural homes without their parents to sleep in safer urban areas to avoid being kidnapped. Father Ojara said the years of displacement also have taken

"It seems like forever that we've been waiting for peace."

— Corrina Akongo

their toll on some people's spirits.

"When you're unable to go out and dig (your own crops), you're forced to depend on outside help, and we're grateful to the world community for assisting our people," he said. "But a good percentage of our population was born in the camps. What kind of vision do they have of life?"

"That dependency on outside help has created a kind of syndrome in the people, and some people have become too dependent. But the time will come for them to go home," he said.

However, Father Ojara said that the people are proud to be independent and do things for themselves.

He recalled that, "last rainy season when people started to go home and work their own fields, if you went to them and offered money and said, 'Come and dig in my field, I will pay you,' they'd say, 'No, I'll go and dig my own garden first, and plant it, and if I have time I'll go and work for you.'"

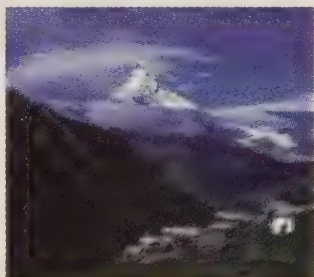
"For me, that's a sign that people haven't been overcome by this syndrome of dependency. When the peace (agreement) is signed, I'm confident that they will go home, and it's our responsibility to encourage them to do so," he said.

But the long years of war also have negatively affected the moral health of the local Acholi people, the priest said, noting that night commuting has contributed to premarital sex among young teens.

"Youth are now learning things from their fellow youth, and some people have become parents in a situation where they are too young and unprepared. They lack understanding of how to bring up families," he said. "These are serious challenges to us as a community, as parents and as pastors," such as the HIV rate in his area is almost double the national average.

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Perspectives

Lent's a season of change;  
lure of Internet's dark side;  
joyful thinking

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## A symbol of solidarity

U.S., Mexican Catholics meet at border to mark Day of the Migrant

BY PAULA GOLDAPP  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LAREDO, Texas — The travelers they came out to represent commonly move from one place to another on foot, so nearly 200 people in Laredo took to the streets and walked in observance of the Day of the Migrant ("Dia del Migrante") Jan. 13.

The local observance of the international event began on the steps of Laredo's San Agustin Cathedral, just a block from the Rio Grande, the natural boundary that separates Texas and Mexico.

The march followed on the heels of the Texas-Mexican border bishops' meeting held the previous day in Laredo.

A similar group from Nuevo

See BORDER, page 6

## STANDING UP FOR UNBORN LIFE



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK MOROCK

Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers a closing prayer during a pro-life rally in Raleigh, part of the annual Rally and March for Life Jan. 12.

Bishop Jugis, members of Diocese of Charlotte participate in Raleigh pro-life event

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

RALEIGH — Bishop Peter J. Jugis recently joined hundreds of Catholics from around North Carolina in raising pro-life awareness.

"Bless our efforts to protect innocent human life in the womb ... to respect the dignity of all human life," said Bishop Jugis during his Benediction remarks at a pro-life rally at Nash Square in Raleigh Jan. 12.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh offered the invocation at the rally, which was followed by the annual March for Life.

Approximately 800 people, the majority of whom

See MARCH, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID FURST, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush listens to a Franciscan priest at an ancient synagogue in the village of Capernaum, Israel, Jan. 11.

## Exploring the Holy Land

Bush says he hopes Palestinian state would bring end to checkpoints

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — U.S. President George W. Bush told residents of the West Bank city of Bethlehem he hoped someday the creation of an independent Palestinian state would eliminate checkpoints and walls at the Israeli border.

"Someday I hope that, as a result of a formation of a Palestinian state, there won't

be walls and checkpoints, that people will be able to move freely in a democratic state," Bush said Jan. 10 during his visit to the birthplace of Jesus.

"That's the vision, greatly inspired by my belief that there is an Almighty, and a gift of that Almighty to each man, woman and child on the face of the earth is freedom. And I felt

See BUSH, page 8

## St. Paul's lasting legacy

Turkish bishops mark 2,000th anniversary year of saint's birth

WARSAW, Poland — Turkey's Catholic bishops marked the 2,000th anniversary year of the birth of St. Paul in the southern Turkish city of Tarsus and outlined preparations for the Pauline year.

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### Culture Watch

Books on 'Dark Materials';  
'godfather' of liturgical music

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### St. Paul's legacy

Turkish bishops mark  
anniversary of saint's birth

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### 'Life of grace'

Pope baptizes 13 infants  
in Sistine Chapel

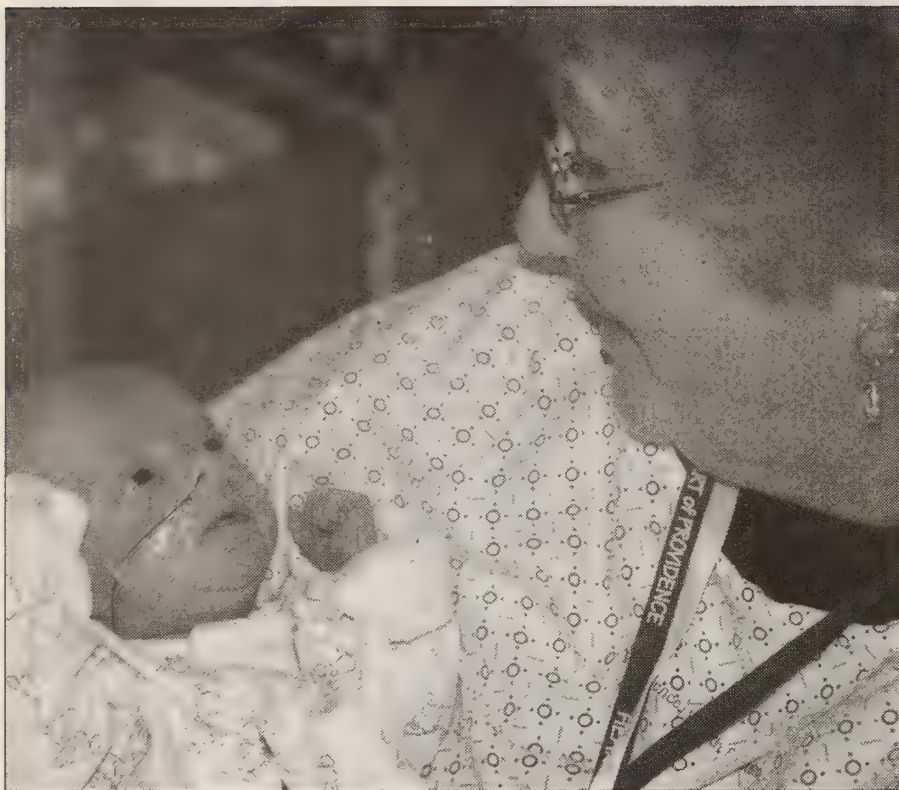
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## IN GOOD HANDS



CNS PHOTO BY EFFIE CALDAROLA, CATHOLIC ANCHOR

Dale Bader rocks 6-week-old Trishelle Patton at Providence Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit in Anchorage, Alaska, in early December. Bader is the lead volunteer for Kuddle Korps, which has nearly 70 volunteers who spend time cuddling premature infants or those born with complications. Trishelle weighed only 4 pounds at birth but was expected to go home soon.

## Volunteers at Anchorage Catholic hospital touch tiniest lives

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — It just might be the sweetest, cuddliest volunteer opportunity in the whole state of Alaska.

For 67 volunteers at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, that opportunity is called the "Kuddle Korps."

Little training is required. You just have to love very small babies, and have the patience to sit for a couple of hours in a rocking chair holding them quietly.

At the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, Dale Bader is the lead volunteer for the Kuddle Korps, and she also "rocks" during a two-hour weekly shift with the tiny infants.

Bader has rocked for five years and it shows. Her motherly — and grandmotherly — instincts are undeniable as she tenderly but very efficiently tucks a premature infant into her arms.

"When I quit work, I knew I needed something to do. And I knew I wanted to hold babies," said the grandmother of seven. "I called every hospital in town."

The right call went to Providence Hospital where the neonatal intensive care unit is the largest in the state. Every other hospital in Alaska refers newborn babies who are premature or born with complications to Providence.

Nurse Nouha Wallin said they've had babies at Providence as small as a pound or born at only 23 weeks gestation — a full-term pregnancy being 40 weeks. The

busy nurses often can't provide all the touching and holding each baby needs.

That's where the Kuddle Korps comes in.

Parents, of course, are the rockers-in-chief. But when a baby has to spend several weeks, or even months, in intensive care, parents sometimes have to get back to their own routines or work schedules and can't be at the hospital day and night.

This is especially true for parents from out of town who may have to travel back and forth to see their infants.

In these cases, the Kuddle Korps fills in. There are college men who are "rockers" — the minimum age is 16 — and there is even a regular volunteer who is 99. Volunteers must pass security screenings and undergo training.

Dr. Lily Lou, medical director of the unit, is unequivocal in her praise of the Kuddle Korps.

"For any babies that can't be home with their families, it's a lifesaver," the doctor said.

Occupational therapist Carol Matthews agrees.

"There's a huge difference in the way babies act and look when they're regularly touched and held," she said, adding that studies show that being touched is necessary for the proper development and even survival of infants.

## Bishop warns Catholics to avoid services started by Life Teen founder

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The priest who founded the Life Teen ministry program has established a nondenominational Praise and Worship Center that is drawing hundreds of participants a week, prompting a warning to Catholics from the bishop of Phoenix to stay away from the services and not to support the center.

Since Thanksgiving, the Praise and Worship Center has held a handful of worship services in Mesa, Ariz., by the charismatic Msgr. Dale Fushek, a Phoenix diocesan priest on administrative leave from Catholic ministry, and another resigned priest.

Msgr. Fushek, who founded Life Teen, an international youth ministry program, has been on administrative leave since late 2004 after allegations he had engaged in improper sexual conduct with teens. A year later he was charged with several misdemeanor criminal counts of assault, contributing to the delinquency of

a minor and indecent exposure.

A Jan. 3 statement posted on the diocesan Web site said the diocese "wishes to express its grave concern for Catholics who may be misled or confused by the actions of Dale Fushek and Mark Dippre."

Dippre is a former associate pastor of St. Timothy who left public ministry in 2002 and later married.

The diocesan statement said Dippre is "a priest not in good standing" and said both men's actions "are not in union with the Catholic Church and may potentially mislead well-intentioned Catholics and other members of the Christian faithful."

"It is important for the faithful to know that both priests are acting contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and remain disobedient to directives of the bishop of Phoenix to whom they pledged obedience and respect when they were ordained to the priesthood," it continued.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is sponsoring a free showing of the documentary "Love Lived on Death Row" Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Banquet Room. The film tells the story of the four Catholic Syrian siblings whose father, Elias, was sentenced to die for murdering their mother in 1990. It also includes reflections by Meg Eggleston, a Catholic who became their father's friend and spiritual advisor through letters to him in prison. Producer and director Linda Booker will introduce the film and Eggleston will give a short talk following the showing. The focus of the evening will be on forgiveness and restorative justice. The public is invited to come at 6:45 p.m. in order to begin the documentary promptly at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677 or visit [www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html](http://www.lovelivedondeathrow.com/aboutthefilm.html).

CHARLOTTE — Franciscan Father Ed Flanagan will lead a parish mission, "Awakening our Faith in Challenging Times" at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., Jan. 26-30. Father Flanagan will preach at all weekend Masses. The mission begins Jan. 28 with Mass at 9 a.m. and mission at 7 p.m.; Jan. 29: Mass at 9 a.m. and mission and reconciliation at 7 p.m.; and Jan. 30: Mass and mission and anointing at 7 p.m. For more information, call David Reiser at (704) 535-3310.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East., will have a vigil Mass, rosary and Benediction for the unborn Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host Facing the Dilemma: An Educational Forum to Uncover the Legal and Moral Issues at the Center of the Immigration Debate. Speakers at this forum will address health care, public safety, education and employment, with an emphasis on how these matters relate to human dignity. The forum will take place Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. in the banquet room of the New Life Center. For more information, contact Terri Jarina at [terrijarina@juno.com](mailto:terrijarina@juno.com). Free and open to the public.

CHARLOTTE — Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning of reflection and attend the Ignatian retreat "Second Journey: Spirituality after 40" Jan. 26 at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. Registration at 8:30 a.m., retreat begins 9 a.m. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to church. To register, call Father Vince Alagia at (704) 332-2901.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A study series, "Living the Questions 2.0," will be offered at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Tuesdays in January, 7:30-9 p.m. This series is for the serious Christian who is concerned with and committed to the way of Jesus Christ in the world and journeying with God through the labyrinth of human experience. For more information,

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope seeks fairness for young immigrants, urges them to respect law

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for fair treatment of young immigrants and said they are often at risk of exploitation.

At the same time, he urged immigrants to always respect the law and never allow their frustration to turn to violence.

He made the comments at a noon blessing Jan. 13, which was marked by Catholic communities in many countries as the World Day for Migrants and Refugees.

Late last year he wrote a message for the event that noted the future of many children is jeopardized by forced migration, human trafficking and other refugee factors.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, the pope cited the growing number of young migrants, many of whom are separated from their families and home countries. Girls and minors among the migrant population face

particular risks, he said.

"Some children and adolescents are born and raised in refugee camps. They, too, have the right to a future," he said.

He asked church communities to welcome with sympathy young immigrants and their parents and to help them take their place in the local culture.

Addressing "dear young migrants," he said: "Work with others your age to build a more just and fraternal society, fulfilling your duties, respecting the laws and never allowing yourselves to be transported to violence," he said.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, told Vatican Radio that World Day is "an opportunity to recognize the contribution that millions of migrants, most of them young people, make to development in its various forms and to the well-being, above all economic, in many countries of the world."

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Fraternity and Sisterhood*" Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday lunch series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27 (except Feb. 6), at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Judith Dancy (Friends Meeting) will speak Jan. 23 and David Harold (Naturalism, Semi-Taoism) will speak Jan. 30. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

### OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE

A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing* is a confidential opportunity for anyone struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. It is also an opportunity to surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief. This will help you to grieve the loss of your unborn child, to receive and accept God's forgiveness, and to forgive yourself. The next retreat is Feb. 15-17. For location and other information, call (704) 370-3229, e-mail [mnadold@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mnadold@charlottediocese.org) or visit the web site at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [catholicnews@charlottediocese.org](mailto:catholicnews@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail [teallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:teallfleming@yahoo.com).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will host an *open house* Jan. 30 at 7:15 p.m. for the general public, IHM parishioners and anyone else with questions regarding or interest in the Catholic faith. We extend our invitation to Catholics and non-Catholics or anyone who has fallen away from the church for any reason. Father Jack Kelly will open the evening, and then the directors of RCIA, HOSEA, adult faith formation and Bible studies will introduce their programs. The event will include a tour of the church, refreshments and a question-and-answer session. Written information will also be available. For more information, please contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or [hkwan@lexcominc.net](mailto:hkwan@lexcominc.net).

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays through Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail [nsskee@hotmail.com](mailto:nsskee@hotmail.com) or [hkwan@lexcominc.net](mailto:hkwan@lexcominc.net).

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host a *covered dish luncheon* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Jan. 23 (snow date Jan. 30) 12-2 p.m. Program will be presented by Jane Hamlin, storyteller. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — Dr. David Dorondo, professor of history at Western Carolina University, will present "*The Myth of Hitler's Pope*" Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St., in the fellowship hall. Dorondo will give the facts about Pope Pius XII, Adolf Hitler, the Catholic Church and Nazi Germany. A potluck supper will be followed by the presentation. For more information, call Matthew Newsome at (828) 586-1747 or the church office at (828) 586-9496.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 22 – 10:30 a.m.  
Mass and March for Life  
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 26 – 7:15 a.m.  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Jan. 26 – 5:30 p.m.  
Mass and dedication of Family Life Center  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Jan. 27 – 10 a.m.  
Installation of Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme as pastor  
St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis

## Vendors protest Vatican decision that they cannot sell in square

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Breaking what the Rome Jewish community says is a concession hundreds of years old, the Vatican governor's office has told the street vendors who sell rosaries and medals at the entrances to St. Peter's Square that they are not welcome.

A dozen vendors and their families staged a protest in the square Jan. 12, the latest in a month of demonstrations. The vast majority of the vendors who have sold in the square are Jewish.

Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, president of the commission governing Vatican territory, issued the order Dec. 10 as part of an almost yearlong battle by the city of Rome to stop unlicensed street vendors from clogging the street leading to St. Peter's Square with copies of designer handbags and luggage, watches and scarves.

In addition to asking the cardinal to rescind his order, the vendors have applied for permits from the city of Rome to sell religious souvenirs just outside the square.

According to Rome's Jewish community, in the mid-1500s Pope Paul IV gave members of the community permission to sell religious objects outside the basilicas of Rome.

The Jewish community has considered the permission a license to

sell on Vatican territory with the rights passed down from one generation to another.

When the popes had temporal power over the city and the activities of Rome's Jews were limited by law, hawking souvenirs was one of the few jobs they were allowed to perform.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office, said Jan. 14 the Vatican does not consider the 16th-century permission to be a valid license. The laws governing Vatican City State do not foresee the presence of street vendors and, therefore, include no provision for licensing them.

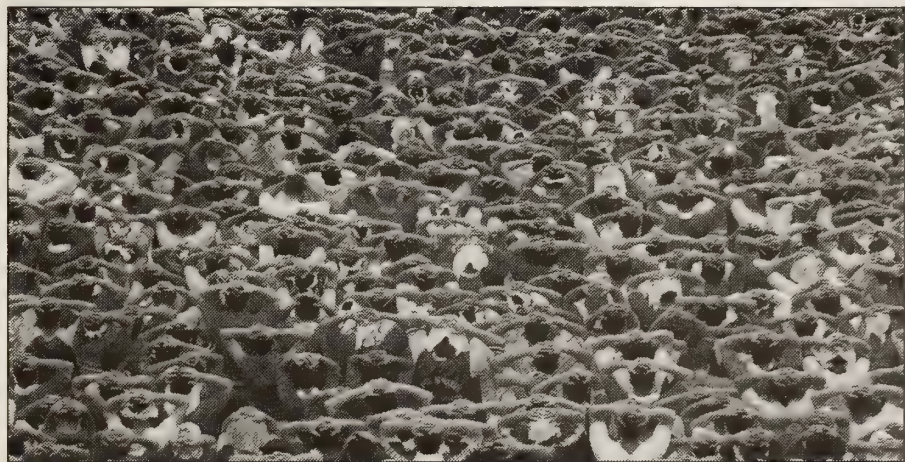
"Now they must ask the city for permits" to sell on Italian property, he said.

Riccardo Pacifici, vice president of Rome's Jewish community, told the Italian news agency ANSA that he had been trying to negotiate with the Vatican to find some way to assist the street vendors, who — at the four major basilicas of Rome — comprise about 100 people.

The discussions have not produced results, he said.

"We are so disappointed and surprised that we are considering a response to send to the highest spheres of the Vatican," he added.

## Sea of humanity



CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

Catholics gesture as they wait for a statue of the Black Nazarene during a procession in Manila, Philippines, Jan. 9. Tens of thousands of devotees, many of them barefoot, thronged the capital to snatch a glimpse of a centuries-old black statue of Jesus during an annual parade. The wooden Black Nazarene, carved in Mexico and brought to the Philippine capital in the early 17th century, is cherished by Catholics, who believe that touching the statue can lead to a miracle.

## Black Catholic pro-life apostolate's 'Rosary Across America'

NEW YORK (CNS) — The New York-based National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life urged all U.S. Catholics to participate in its annual "Black Catholic Rosary Across America for Life" Jan. 22 to mark the 35th year since the Supreme Court legalized abortion virtually on demand.

"We will be praying for the end of abortion and all acts of violence against the sacredness of life. For peace throughout the world and especially in our communities. For the unity and sanctity of the family," Franciscan Father James Goode, the apostolate's founder and president, said Jan. 14.

Last year more than 20,000 people participated and organizers were praying "even more will come on board this year," he said.

The rosary was planned to coincide with the Jan. 22 March for Life in Washington and other related events.

"The joy of the 'Black Catholic Rosary Across America for Life' is everyone can feel a part of this day that we pray (Roe) will be overturned and the dignity of life held in esteem," said Father Goode.

Roe v. Wade and its companion case, Doe v. Bolton, are the 1973 Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion.



## A new pastor in Biscoe-Candor



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis installs Father Ricardo Sanchez as pastor of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe-Candor during a standing-room-only Mass Jan. 13. Choir members from the English-language and Spanish-language Masses and Knights of Columbus honor guard participated in the Mass.

"It was such a beautiful ceremony and a happy Mass that you didn't want it to end," said parishioner Claire Gaffney.

Afterward, Bishop Jugis joined Father Sanchez and parishioners at a reception in the parish hall.

## Helping House of Mercy



COURTESY PHOTO

Stan Patterson, president of House of Mercy in Belmont, accepts a \$1,000 matching grant check from Charity McDaniel and Melissa Ledford, representatives of Sam's Club, Dec. 12, 2007.

Sam's Club, a retail store, presented the matching grant check toward House of Mercy's winter fundraiser event. A total of approximately \$12,000 was raised for House of Mercy, which was established in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide compassionate nursing care to persons living with advanced AIDS.

## A holy family



COURTESY PHOTO

The Howard family, parishioners of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, portrays the Holy Family during the parish's celebration of the feast of the Epiphany Jan. 5. Sponsored by the parish faith formation office, the parish life commission and the Knights of Columbus, the event included a spaghetti-and-meatball dinner, followed by crafts and an Epiphany program.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

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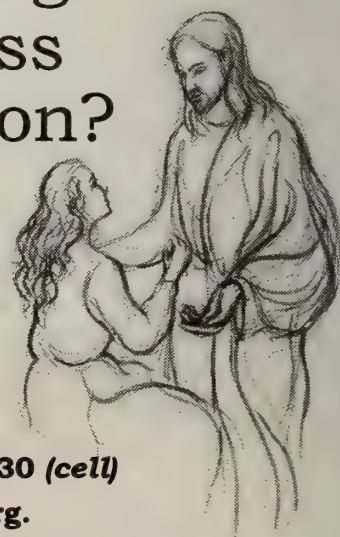
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS-HERALD



# Catholics participate in Raleigh pro-life march

MARCH, from page 1

were Catholic, marched passed the Supreme Court building to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The rally and march were sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life Inc.

The event began with the ninth annual Prayer Breakfast for Life at the Holiday Inn Brownstone Hotel and Conference Center with keynote speaker, David Prentice.

Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council, spoke about the myths and failures of embryonic stem-cell research and the success of adult stem-cell research.

"Most people do not know that there's a difference between embryonic and adult stem cells," said Charlie Breeding, a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

"Dr. Prentice is knowledgeable, researched-based and most effective in getting his points across," he said.

Among the rally speakers was Hai-y Le, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte.

Le, a 2007 recipient of the "Hero for

Life" scholarship sponsored by Charlotte Right to Life, spoke about her efforts to organize a Right to Life club at Olympic High School in Charlotte.

"I believe that all of us here should be silent no more," she told the crowd.

Ashley Ahlquist, a senior at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., spoke about her efforts to promote her pro-life platform as a finalist in the Miss District of Columbia Pageant for Miss America last year.

Pageant organizers advised her to change her platform, but she refused and was quickly eliminated from the pageant. A local newspaper article, Ahlquist recalled, immediately condemned her for choosing a pro-life platform.

Carol Leach, a parishioner of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, found the rally and march encouraging.

It "was inspirational as I looked out and saw a definite increase in the (number of) people attending the rally. And the speakers were exceptional," she said.

"I praise our young people who are rising to the occasion and speaking for the unborn," said Leach.

Contact Deacon Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail [gpotkay@triad.rr.com](mailto:gpotkay@triad.rr.com).



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

A group from St. Joseph Church in Asheboro participates in the annual March for Life in Raleigh Jan. 12.

## OTHER PRO-LIFE EVENTS AROUND CHARLOTTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

In observance of the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion, Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte are taking part in a number of pro-life observances.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated a pro-life Mass at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Jan. 14.

The bishop joined in the Charlotte March for Life Jan. 18. Participants marched

from the diocesan Pastoral Center to the federal courthouse on Trade Street.

On Jan. 22, the two bishops of North Carolina will join hundreds from their two dioceses at the 35th March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the march, Bishop Jugis will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh will be the homilist.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh take part in the March for Life in Raleigh Jan. 12. Pictured are (from left) Howard Brink, Knights of Columbus district marshal; John Gouldie, Knights state deputy; Bishop Jugis; Bishop Burbidge; Robert Grabowski, Knights master fourth degree.

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# U.S., Mexican Catholics meet at border

BORDER, from page 1

Laredo, Mexico, began walking from the other direction. The two groups met for a balloon release, converging on the Convent Street bridge that joins the two countries.

A Mass celebrated by the Texas and Mexican bishops followed on the banks of the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.

"We're here to pray for all persons who come to the U.S. to get a better life," said Imelda Guzman, who came to the event with her husband, Rafael, and their four children.

She and her immediate family are all U.S. citizens living in Laredo, but some of her in-laws and friends have traveled across the border without documentation.

"I have friends whose parents have died in Mexico and they can't go to the funeral because their families are here and they can't get back here if they go," she said.

The impact current U.S. immigration law has on families and the church's position on the dignity of the human person were concerns shared by many of the pilgrims.

In a processionlike manner, the peaceful march made its way to the bridge and paused along the route several times as various speakers read a Scripture verse, followed by a brief reflection.

"When you turn away the immigrant, you turn away the Lord Jesus," said the speaker at the first stop.

Guzman has encountered people who crossed into Texas from Mexico and have been abused by the coyotes paid to smuggle them across the border.

The ability to have a better lifestyle in Mexico and other Latin American countries would deter many from fleeing their homeland, Guzman said, but until then people will continue to do what they feel they have to do to provide for themselves and their families.

"So, we are here to pray for both sides so God can change their hearts," she added.

Sister Anne Miriam Landolt, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, lives in Rio Grande City in the Texas border Diocese of Brownsville and joined the march with members of her religious congregation who serve in Laredo and in McAllen, also in the Brownsville Diocese.

"All of us have direct or indirect contact with immigrants," said Sister Landolt, a hospital chaplain who also facilitates small Christian communities at Immaculate Conception Church in Rio Grande City.

After spending 12 years as a missionary in Honduras, she has experienced immigration concerns from both sides of the border.

"I saw the reason why they sometimes needed to leave," she said.

The role she sees the church playing is in awareness and education and "somehow just being vocal about immigration and the right to immigrate."

Tony Juarez walked with her husband, Beto, a retired history professor. The couple belongs to San Martin de Porres Church in Laredo. She said she wished the crowds that come out for immigration awareness were as big as the ones that marched for farmworkers' rights.

The Juarezes now spend much of their retirement speaking publicly about the church's position on immigration and the dignity of the human person.

She said there are many misconceptions, even in her own community, about the people who cross the river. "Not every Mexican who comes here wants to stay," said Juarez. "They just want to work for a while and go back home."

She said she hopes the concept of legally hiring undocumented immigrants as contract workers will be explored.

Maria de Jesus Gonzalez hurriedly walked past the crowd on a pedestrian walkway next to the procession, which by the time it reached the bridge filled one of the two lanes of traffic flowing toward Mexico.

A small child held her hand and she stopped to ask Tony Juarez the meaning of the march. When she heard that it was to recognize migrant people, it evoked an emotional response.

"There is a lot of hatred toward immigrants," said Gonzalez, a Mexican national living legally in Laredo who fears the negative attitude that even the youngest children are picking up toward



CNS BY RICARDO SEGOWIA

Bishop Ricardo Watty Urquidi of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and other bishops look at the crowd gathered for Mass on the banks of the Rio Grande near Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Jan. 13. In observance of the Day of the Migrant, a group of Catholic pilgrims and bishops walked from Laredo, Texas, across a bridge to meet their counterparts from Mexico before the Mass.

people migrating to the United States.

"They are just people working, not doing anything wrong," she said as her voice began to crack.

As religious education director of the Laredo Diocese, Reynaldo Montemayor said his presence was "a commitment of solidarity with my brothers and sisters in the church."

He acknowledged countries have the right to defend their borders but not at the expense of treating persons inhumanely.

Montemayor, a Laredo native, knows many active Catholics in Laredo

parishes probably have irregular status in the eyes of the government, "but we won't close our churches to them."

Bishop Faustino Armendariz Jimenez of Matamoras, Mexico, just across the river from the Brownsville Diocese, said the march "is an important sign of solidarity with the immigrants and the ones who support and help the immigrant."

He added, "We are all immigrants on a pilgrimage" and "we need to make it known that we should construct bridges instead of walls."

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# St. Paul's lasting legacy

*Turkish bishops mark 2,000th anniversary of year of saint's birth*

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — Turkey's Catholic bishops marked the 2,000th anniversary year of the birth of St. Paul in the southern Turkish city of Tarsus and outlined preparations for the Pauline year.

"This event is for all Christian communities, since Paul is a teacher for all the disciples of Christ. However, the anniversary is of particular importance for us living in Turkey — the apostle of the gentiles is a son of this land, and it is here he exercised most of his ministry," said a letter from the bishops' conference, which includes bishops of Turkey's Armenian, Syrian, Chaldean and Latin-rite churches.

"We are immersed in a Muslim world where faith in God is still very present, both in its traditional aspects and in the assertion of new Islamic religious organizations," said the letter, which was to be read in Catholic churches Jan. 25, the anniversary of St. Paul's conversion.

Pope Benedict XVI convoked 2008-09 as a special Pauline year of

events marking the anniversary of the saint's birth. The pope said the celebrations should have a special ecumenical character.

Bishop Luigi Padovese, apostolic administrator of Anatolia, told Catholic News Service Jan. 9 that the anniversary would begin formally June 21-22 and include a Mass in Tarsus celebrated by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

It also will include a national pilgrimage to sites associated with St. Paul.

He added that talks on ecumenical initiatives were under way with other denominations that make up Turkey's 120,000-member Christian minority, and he said he counted on officials in Tarsus to make facilities available for pilgrims, while also allowing regular use of the Mediterranean town's 12th-century St. Paul Church, now a state-owned museum.

"The local authorities are aware of their town's significance for Christians and proud one of its citizens was once a key figure. On the other hand, they aren't prepared for an increase of religious tourism," he said.

"But government officials have agreed we should be able to worship here. After all, we're not missionaries — we are merely answering the needs of church members."

The bishops' letter noted that St. Paul had completed most of his 10,000-mile missionary journeys in Turkey and would have encouraged Christians to "intensify dialogue with the Muslim world" while remaining true to their religious faith.

"This very situation, in some aspects similar to those of the first communities living in diaspora, imposes on us a clear awareness of our identity," it added.

"Before being Catholics, Orthodox, Syrians, Armenians, Chaldeans, Protestants, we are Christians. Let us not allow our differences to generate diffidence to the detriment of the unity of faith," the letter said.

In the first century, St. Paul made three journeys through what is now Turkey, preaching the Gospel and writing letters to the Galatians, Ephesians and Colossians.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

The ruins of a fourth-century basilica named for Mary are seen in the ancient town of Ephesus near Izmir, Turkey. St. Paul ministered in Ephesus for more than two years, and one of his New Testament epistles is addressed to Christians there. The Catholic Church is set to mark the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul, who spent most of his time preaching in what is now Turkey.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

A visitor walks in the ruins of the ancient Miletus theater, about 25 miles south of Ephesus, on the coast of western Turkey. The Acts of the Apostles in the Bible relates that St. Paul stopped in Miletus and met with church leaders of Ephesus on his way to Jerusalem.




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# Bush says he hopes Palestinian state would bring end to checkpoints

BUSH, from page 1

it strongly here today," he said.

Bethlehem residents have said a 25-foot-tall wall surrounding the city has left them feeling imprisoned.

Israel says the wall — part of a planned 400-mile cement and barbed-wire barrier through the West Bank — has proven its effectiveness against suicide bombers.

Bush thanked the residents of Bethlehem for "enduring a presidential trip," and thanked the leadership of the three churches — Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Catholic — who share in the care of the Church of the Nativity for welcoming him.

Following two days of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Bush spent one-and-a-half hours in Bethlehem visiting the church.

He was accompanied by Palestinian Tourism Minister Kholoud Daybis and church leaders of the three denominations that share authority over the church.

Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who heads the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, was the Catholic representative.

Bush called his visit to the church "a moving moment."

"For those of us who practice the Christian faith, there's really no more holy site than the place where our Savior was born," Bush said.

"It's a fascinating history in this church, so not only was my soul uplifted, my knowledge of history was enriched," he said.

As elsewhere during the president's three-day visit to the Holy Land, security was high in Bethlehem.

People living on the main road to Manger Square and near the Church of the Nativity were told to remain indoors.

Shopkeepers near the square kept their shops closed.

Traffic came to a halt, parked cars were moved to other locations and police patrolled the streets and the rooftops hours before the president arrived.

The streets were reopened only an hour after the president's departure.

In both Bethlehem and Ramallah, where the president met earlier with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, American flags were not put up for fear they might be burned.

In Ramallah, police stopped a group of Palestinian protesters on their way to Abbas' headquarters, where the two leaders met. No incidents were reported in Bethlehem.

"Bethlehem is calm, absolutely calm," Father Marwan Dides of St. Catherine Church in Bethlehem told Catholic News Service in a phone interview.

Bush visited the Church of the Nativity, then went down to the grotto underneath where Christian tradition holds that Jesus was born, said Father Dides. He also spent time at the Franciscan-run St. Catherine Church.

After his visit, Bush shook hands with some 15 Franciscan friars outside the church.

The priests said most of the Franciscans had not been allowed to leave their residence during the president's visit.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID FURST, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush poses with nuns at the Church of the Beatitudes on the shores of Israel's Sea of Galilee Jan. 11. Sending a symbolic message to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Bush visited the site believed to be where Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers."

## Franciscan describes Bush's visit to biblical sites in Holy Land

*President thankful for opportunity to visit sites, says friar*

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Following a grueling schedule of political meetings, U.S. President George W. Bush was thankful for the opportunity to visit some of the Christian holy sites, said a Franciscan friar who accompanied Bush on his visit to Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes in Israel.

"He is truly a religious man, and President Bush mentioned how nice it was to get away and to have some (time for) peace and quiet and prayer for reflection," said Father Peter Vasko, an official of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which cares for the holy sites.

"He said it was so restful and peaceful for him to be there. He loved the Sea of Galilee," said Father Vasko.

Bush, who arrived in the Holy Land Jan. 9 to discuss peace with Palestinian and Israeli political leaders, visited the Church of the Nativity Jan. 10 and the Mount of Beatitudes Jan. 11, the last day of his trip in the Holy Land.

Father Vasko said the president was extremely interested in the archaeology of the house of St. Peter at Capernaum, and they read several passages of Scripture related to the site.

"I was very impressed with his spirituality and goodness. He is a deeply spiritual Christian man," said

"He is truly a  
religious man ...."

— Father Peter Vasko

Father Vasko, an American who said he was proud and happy to help guide an American president through the holy sites.

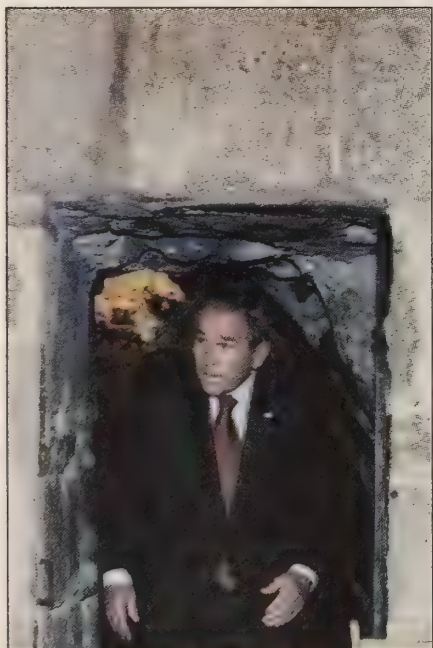
"He certainly wants peace and is very committed to a two-state solution," said Father Vasko.

Bush was very friendly and took time out to take individual pictures with the four nuns and the five friars at the site, said Father Vasko.

At the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Father Athanasius Macora, a fellow Texan and a spokesman for the Franciscan custody, said that Bush, who was raised in Texas, chatted with him and teased the priest about still having a Houston accent after so many years in the Holy Land.

Franciscan Father Marwan Dides of St. Catherine Church in Bethlehem said Bush shook hands with some 15 Franciscan friars outside the church.

"He was very nice. We thought he would be more formal, but he was very simple," said Father Dides, who was among those who greeted the president.



CNS PHOTO BY LARRY DOWNING, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush walks through the Door of Humility in the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Jan. 10. During his visit to the site traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Christ, Bush greeted both the Franciscan and the Orthodox caretakers of the church.

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# As disciples in Christ

## U.S. Cardinal George expresses solidarity with Palestinian Christians

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Christians must feel the support of the universal church and must not feel isolated in their difficulties, said Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Their cares are also our cares, and it is important to say that. I hope our visit encouraged them," Cardinal George said after greeting parishioners of Ramallah's Holy Family Church, where he celebrated Mass on the feast of Jesus' baptism Jan. 13.

The cardinal was in the Holy Land Jan. 11-15 to participate in the ninth annual meeting of the Coordination of Episcopal Conferences in Support of the Church in the Holy Land, a Catholic group.

He was part of a 28-member delegation that included nine bishops.

Clergy who participated in the meeting celebrated Masses at several of the Catholic parishes in the Palestinian territories.

Cardinal George said it was wonderful to see the life of faith led by the local Christians and feel with them the "fundamental unity as disciples of Christ," despite the differences in language and culture.

"Some of us have come to you

... from the USA, Britain, Germany, Spain, France, but first of all we come as followers of Jesus," Cardinal George told parishioners.

"Because all of us are disciples of Jesus, we want to be with you on this feast day, on a joyful day, but also every day in the difficulties and problems you have here in the Holy Land," he said.

He said that "when we are not with you physically we are with you in Christ, and we promise you are in our prayers, and we ask in return your prayers for us."

The bishops met with Palestinian and Israeli political leaders, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Interior Minister Meir Sheehrit.

They also met with local Christian leaders, including Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem and Archbishop Antonio Franco, the papal nuncio to Israel.

Archbishop Franco briefed the church leaders on the status of the Fundamental Agreement, which set a framework for negotiations on church-state questions between Israel and the Vatican.

Cardinal George said Patriarch Sabbah expressed concern about the situation of Christians in the Gaza Strip, although for the moment, Hamas, an Islamic extremist political and military movement, appears to be



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Palestinian Subhi Saygh greets Chicago Cardinal E. Francis George following a Mass at Holy Family Church in the West Bank city of Ramallah Jan. 13. Cardinal George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visited the Palestinian parish during an annual international meeting of Catholic leaders in the Holy Land.

protecting the Christians.

Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip last June.

The cardinal expressed hope that the internal dispute between Hamas and the Palestinian political movement Fatah would be resolved peacefully with a Hamas recognition of Israel, a rejection of violence and an acceptance of previous agreements.

Cardinal George said that in meetings with Israeli and Palestinian political leaders, church officials expressed their concern for peace and encouraged both to move forward in normalizing relations with the Vatican.

He said they also discussed checkpoints, visas and the expansion of settlements, as well as issues regarding security, militias and political reforms.

"We are firm supporters of the state of Israel and ... a two-state solution providing for a safe Israel and a viable Palestinian state," said Cardinal George.

He said it was important to "listen and see the various perspectives to this very complicated situation" in the meetings with the local leaders and residents.

"We are not the ones with the solutions. We come with the hope there will be peace in the Holy Land," said the cardinal. "Our ... concern is peace for everyone; how to achieve that is a local concern."

Cardinal George said the visit allowed him to see the situation more clearly, including the issues of the checkpoints and the Israeli separation barrier, which, when completed, will be a 400-mile-long blockade of concrete slabs and barbed-wire fences separating Israel from the West Bank.

"No one loves the wall. Even Israel is saying it wants (the wall) to be temporary," said the cardinal.

"It is a ... complicating factor in people's lives, and it dominates what they can hope for in life," he said.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Illuminating 'His Dark Materials'

*Books illuminate truths of faith, bleak realities in Pullman trilogy*

REVIEWED BY  
CHRISTOPHER FENOGLIO  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Favorable reviews of a watered-down film version of "The Golden Compass" aside, there is much more to Phillip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" book trilogy than what appears on the silver screen.

Our search for wisdom, our internal struggles for integrity and the connection between all living beings are enduring themes in Pullman's novels that sit alongside dogmatic declarations like "the Christian religion is a powerful and convincing mistake."

This menagerie of ideas, both fair and foul, is packed so tightly into such a small space that when cut open they come whooshing out like an army of Pullman's Spectres.

Two books examine these ideas more closely, holding them up against the light of our faith to illuminate both the shining truths and the bleak realities of Pullman's worlds.

In "Dark Matter: Shedding Light on Philip Pullman's Trilogy 'His Dark Materials,'" Tony Watkins states straight away that he is "unashamedly a fan, but I also take issue with Pullman on the question of his attack on God and Christianity."

Watkins sets the stage by exploring Pullman's past for literary influences. He delves deeper into Pullman's favored texts of John Milton, Heinrich von Kleist and William Blake to find the "raw materials" with which the trilogy is created.

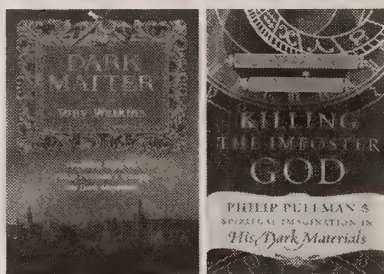
He also provides concise summaries of the events and themes of each of the books, along with examinations of the major themes found throughout the trilogy.

At times, however, Watkins' appreciation of the author's storytelling bleeds into statements that associated Christian themes can be readily found in Pullman's works.

In one example, Watkins proposes that the symbiotic relationship between Lyra, her daemon Pantalaimon and her ghost is a Venn-diagramlike description similar to a diagram of the Trinity.

However, the explanation reads more like a square peg being written into a round hole.

Watkins is more compelling when he analyzes how the author misrepresents history and misreads the Bible to create a caricature of Christianity. Using the author's own words from numerous interviews to substantiate his analysis, Watkins shows the inherent incongruity between the virtues that



Pullman espouses (curiosity, courage, kindness and determination) and the bleak, desolate worldview that pervades the trilogy.

In "Killing the Imposter God: Philip Pullman's Spiritual Imagination in 'His Dark Materials,'" Donna Freitas and Jason King work even harder to find and substantiate redeeming Christian values in Pullman's trilogy.

Freitas and King explore Pullman's pantheistic beliefs about God, starting with the Fall of the Authority in "The Subtle Knife."

They then turn to ethics, using his interrelated themes of freedom and compassion as proof that his works can be read, and lived, within a liberation theological framework.

Indeed, Pullman's God is connected part and parcel to the universe as if the two are lovers, sharing an eros love that becomes a tangible expression of this divine intimacy.

Salvation does occur in Pullman's universe, say the authors, not in a singular death like Jesus, but in the relational death of Lyra and Will. A consciousness of the "Dust" that connects all living beings is vital to understanding one's position in the universe.

With small acts of love to others (as Lyra, Will and Mary helped others become free, thoughtful, conscious and kind), creation moves toward salvation and the Republic of Heaven is gradually built.

Freitas and King use these examples to justify their vision that Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy embodies "a sophisticated theology and so make the atheist Philip Pullman a theologian in spite of himself."

Readers will find some justifications stretched to fit the authors' needs, especially when both books proffer different opinions on the divinity and eternal qualities of "Dust."

But readers of both books will be challenged by new insights to decide for themselves whether Pullman has written a work of fantasy that espouses his own atheistic agenda or a "religious classic of considerable sophistication."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 27, 2008

Jan. 27, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17  
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Ordinary things become extraordinary with Jesus

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My wife works in a cubicle in the middle of corporate America. She often feels she is not doing all she can to answer the call to ministry.

I think this may have something to do with the story we hear in today's Gospel of Jesus calling the first disciples.

I have always loved this story because the choice to follow seems so clear-cut for these guys. They walk away from their nets and lives at the drop of a hat with no questions.

I wonder if they knew Jesus already and had been planning to follow him and realized this was the time. Or was this their first experience of the God Man, and his presence and call were so powerful they were compelled to follow?

Either way the story continues to

challenge me.

On the other hand, this story might make it seem that if we don't leave it all behind and go into full-time ministry, we aren't really answering our baptismal call.

This is where my wife comes in.

In cubicle land where she works, there are no private conversations. One day she overheard two people grumbling about a third person who had been out sick for two days.

The next day my wife saw this man walking the halls at work. She stopped him and said, "Hey, I heard you have been out sick, how are you feeling?"

He replied, "I have worked here for over three months, and you are the first person who has said more than 'hi' to me."

In that moment my wife was answering the call to follow Jesus. Sure, the man didn't drop to his knees and ask Jesus to become his savior.

But he did experience someone who had genuine concern for his well-being, and in that moment he experienced love.

Too often we think that the only way to answer the call to follow Jesus means we have to do something out of the ordinary or spectacular.

Raising a family or being salt and light at work might seem pretty ordinary, but when we do these things with the understanding that they are a way to answer the call to follow Jesus, they become extra-ordinary.

You even might say spectacular.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 20-26

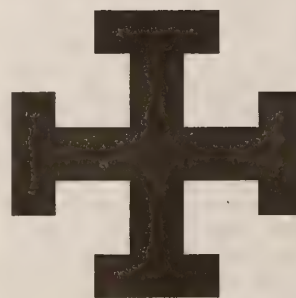
Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; Monday (St. Agnes), 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; Tuesday (St. Vincent), 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; Wednesday, 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; Thursday (St. Francis de Sales), 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; Friday (Conversion of Saint Paul), Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; Saturday (Sts. Timothy and Titus), 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:20-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 27-FEB 2

Sunday (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time), Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; Monday (St. Thomas Aquinas), 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10, Mark 3:22-30; Tuesday, 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; Wednesday, 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; Thursday (St. John Bosco), 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; Friday, 2 Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; Saturday (The Presentation of the Lord), Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.

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Diocese of Charlotte  
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE  
November 2009

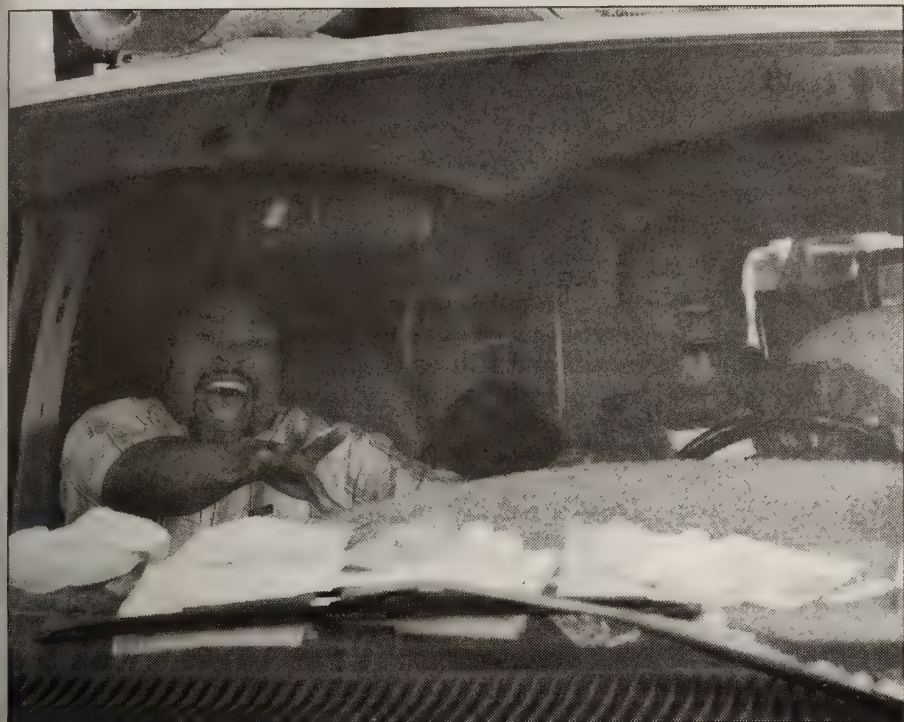


Because of the opportunities for spiritual growth and the popularity of our recent trip, the Diocese of Charlotte has plans for another 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land during the first 2 weeks of November 2009. The exact dates and price will be determined at the end of this year as airfares become available.

Space will be limited to 40 people so if you would like to receive a brochure before the general announcement is made, please send your name and address to: cfeerick@charlottediocese.org or Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.



## 'First Sunday' offers big, crude laughs



CNS PHOTO/SCREEN GEMS

*Ice Cube and Tracy Morgan star in "First Sunday," a lively ensemble comic drama in which two friends break into a church and end up holding hostage the pastor and others. The film serves up a serious message about bad decisions and second chances with more than a dollop of enjoyable humor. Occasional crude and profane language, pervasive crass language, some irreverent and sexual humor, implied nonmarital sex and an obscene gesture. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned.*

## Hong Kong priest urges Catholics not to carelessly dump their old TVs

HONG KONG (CNS) — A priest in Hong Kong urged Catholics not to carelessly dump their old television sets when replacing them with high-definition TVs.

"As Catholics, we should not waste the resources," said Father Anthony Chang, chairman of the Catholic environmental group Green Messengers of Green Consciousness. "I appeal to all Catholics, parishes and schools not to dump their TV sets. If they really want to replace (them with) the high-tech ones, they should donate the old one to the needy."

Hong Kong's two local TV stations started their digital broadcasting service Dec. 31. People can view high-definition programs after replacing their traditional cathode-ray-tube television sets with a new digital model.

The environmental group Friends of the Earth recently issued survey results that showed about 460,000 television sets would be replaced in the coming two years as local TV stations implemented their digital broadcasting. The group said more TV sets would be replaced before the Beijing Olympics this summer.

It pointed out that improper handling of the cathode-ray TV sets, which contain toxic substances such as mercury, lead and cadmium, harm the soil

and water sources.

Michelle Au Wing-tze, the group's environmental affairs officer, said Christian groups can help decrease the waste by promoting the donation of the old sets.

"Christian groups can help promote the green message" by using "church buildings as collection points of old TV sets, so that a welfare agency might collect them for the needy people," she said.

Au said TV sets that are not donated should be environmentally treated to take out poisonous chemicals before they are left safely at a dumping area.

In the United States, where all stations will broadcast in high definition by Feb. 17, 2009, 400 million units of consumer electronics are thrown out per year, according to the Web site of the Electronics TakeBack Coalition, an environmental group focusing on the issue.

The group's campaign, "Take Back My TV Campaign," urges manufacturing companies to be responsible for the waste their products create.

Americans ready to dispose of their old TVs at recycling centers considered environmentally safe by the campaign's standards can find the centers online at <http://takebackmytv.com/page/speakout/> TakeBackMyTV.

## 'Hymnanny for Hootenunnies'

*Texas priest seen as 'godfather' of nascent liturgical music movement*

BY JESSICA KELLY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SLATON, Texas — If Ray Repp, of "Allelu!" and "Peace, My Friends" fame, can be considered the founding father of contemporary Catholic music, then Msgr. Joseph W. James can lay claim to the title of the music's "godfather."

Born in Dalhart and raised on a large ranch where he worked as a cowboy, Msgr. James was ordained for the Diocese of Amarillo in 1957. He became a priest of the Diocese of Lubbock, when it was created out of the Amarillo Diocese in 1983.

Now retired, Msgr. James has had a prophetic and productive life of ministry.

Msgr. James baptized Buddy Holly's drummer into the Catholic Church so the young man could marry the "Peggy Sue" that Holly sang about, but it's the priest's influence on liturgical music that will be his legacy.

In the early 1960s, before the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) brought changes to the church, the Mass was in Latin. There was sometimes a choir, usually with an organ played as an accompaniment.

The thought of using a guitar at Mass was practically blasphemous.

In the summer of 1964, then-Father James was at the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana, in a class with Father Clarence Rivers, a young priest from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Their professor challenged Father Rivers to write a song for Mass in the vernacular, the language of the people.

So impressed was he by the song Father Rivers wrote — "God Is Love" — and songs he heard at nearby hootenannies, Msgr. James gathered them in a songbook, printed copies and organized a singalong at Notre Dame.

Soon, groups of students — many of whom were women religious — were gathering to sing, pray and worship on Saturday evenings. He called his songbook "Hymnanny for Hootenunnies."

In 1965, while helping with a three-week training session in Chicago for the Catholic Church Extension Society's lay volunteer program, Msgr. James encountered singalongs led by a young man who played guitar and taught participants songs he had written.

"I had a trusty little reel-to-reel tape recorder that I used to carry around so I could record anything of note," said Msgr. James. "This guy was singing some songs that I thought were really great. So I recorded them."

The "guy" was Repp, a seminarian on leave to serve as an Extension volunteer. Each night, the volunteers would gather for Mass before dinner. After the first evening of what Repp remembers as a "ho-hum," quiet Mass, he asked the celebrant, "Do you mind if we have some music tomorrow?"

The priest — Msgr. John May, later to become archbishop of St. Louis

— agreed, and Repp began introducing his "folk Mass" music to the other volunteers, leading them in familiar songs and creating more along the way.

Many volunteers requested something to take with them as they dispersed throughout the country. Repp, however, had never written down any of his music.

"In fact," he said, "I hardly knew how to write stuff down, and so two or three people who knew more about music than I did spent an evening or two literally writing it down for the first time."

He and his friends then made up booklets of his music on a "ditto" machine to give to the volunteers.

"It was somewhere around this particular period of time that Joe James must have come to some of these things, and he said, 'You know, I think we should put some of this on tape,'" said Repp.

"So we recorded this tape, and Joe made this tape available to a lot of people, so when we were commissioned and went out, everybody not only had a physical copy of the music we'd been singing, they also had Joe's tapes," he said.

Father James asked for an endorsement of the music from Bishop Victor Reed of Oklahoma City, who happened to be in Chicago at the time.

The bishop agreed, so a label was attached to each tape reading "This has been approved by the bishop of Oklahoma City."

"I took one of (Repp's) tapes to Dennis Fitzpatrick, who had an office there in Chicago, Friends of the English Liturgy, FEL," Msgr. James told the South Plains Catholic, Lubbock's diocesan newspaper.

"I gave him the tape and said, 'I think it's pretty good stuff, and the bishop of Oklahoma City approved of it.'"

Within three months, Fitzpatrick called Repp, asking him to come back to Chicago to record an album.

He recorded "Mass for Young Americans," the first album of its kind and the inspiration for an entirely new genre of Catholic music.

Father James did not stop there. The next summer, he was at school in Chicago again, still carrying around his reel-to-reel recorder.

"I'd record anything that people that were going to summer school had written," he said.

Father James sent about 10 people to Fitzpatrick, who put them in Friends of the English Liturgy's 1966 "Hymnal for Young Christians."

Msgr. James also boosted the career of Sebastian Temple, who wrote "Prayer of St. Francis," by introducing him to Omer Westendorf, founder of World Library of Sacred Music and publisher of "The People's Mass Book."

The priest takes no credit for his role. "It was something that I enjoyed and promoted," he said. "I never got a penny out of it, or royalty, or anything else."

I didn't think about it as breaking new ground, it just seemed helpful and needed to be promoted," he said.



**ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?**

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

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Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Students collect, donate books



COURTESY PHOTO

Second-grader students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem hold some of the books they collected for families assisted by Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem Nov. 9, 2007.

Students collected nearly 200 children's books and other items in September and October for delivery in November.

Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families of children who are receiving medical care in a hospital.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryan Vermillion (far right), a fifth-grader at St. Mark School in Huntersville, speaks with DeShaun Foster, running back with the Carolina Panthers, during a school pep rally Nov. 27, 2007.

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## Students win pep rally from Carolina Panthers

*School wins contest for  
second consecutive year*

HUNTERSVILLE — DeShaun Foster, a running back with the Carolina Panthers, recently visited St. Mark School in Huntersville.

Foster's visit, along with the Panthers' Top Cat Cheerleaders and mascot Sir Purr, was part of a school pep rally at the school Nov. 27, 2007.

The school won the pep rally by placing first in a Harris Teeter Together in Education Milk Challenge, a contest sponsored by Harris Teeter, the Carolina Panthers and the Southeast United Dairy Association.

Local schools competed to redeem the most Harris Teeter milk carton caps. St. Mark School collected 14,900 caps. It was the second consecutive year the school won the contest. Last year, students collected 9,500 caps and won a similar pep rally.

In addition to the pep rally, the Carolina Panthers donated \$500 toward the purchase of physical education equipment for the school. Harris Teeter gave the school a check for \$754, representing 5 cents for every milk cap collected.

During the pep rally, students were treated to cheese, milk, cookies and ice cream sandwiches courtesy of Harris Teeter and the Southeast United Dairy Association.

"We are so proud of the families at St. Mark's for working together to win this contest again this year," said Principal Debbie Butler.

"Not only does this win boost school spirit, it provides our school with funds to help us continue to make St. Mark's a great place for our students to learn and grow," she said.



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Saving Tony Soprano

*Joyful spirit requires absence of sin, toxicity*

If Tony Soprano, the fictional TV Mafia boss, came to me for help in overcoming his anxiety attacks, I would try to explain that a life of thievery and murder was not very conducive to attaining peace of mind, and he would have to change.

More likely than not, he would be polite, but inwardly scoff at the idea.

He once rebuked his wife who was trying to get him to change, saying, "I'm like Popeye the sailor man, I am what I am what I am."

His chances for attaining peace and spiritual joy at this point are rather slim. I wouldn't give up right away.

If he stayed around long enough to listen I would tell him, "Tony, God is just. You can't steal and murder and still expect to have a peaceful conscience.

"There will be a day of reckoning.

"God is sending you these anxiety attacks to awaken you to the fact that life is short and eternity is forever.

"He wants you to change your evil ways.

"To attain the peace and joy you crave so much, you will have to repent and firmly resolve to sin no more!"

Even if he agreed, he would still need some training in mental discipline. A truly joyful life is only possible when people are able to control their thoughts.

Removing your toxic thinking and tapping into God's joy is the most challenging part of the spiritual life.

In order to do it correctly, you have to clear your mind of all kinds of toxic thinking, such as fear, resentment, hatred, vindictiveness and on and on.

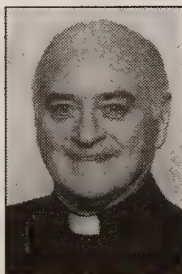
Fear is the enemy of joy. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid." Learning how to reduce fear will take time and training of the will. Grace builds on nature.

It takes a strong will, a grateful heart and a clear mind to remove the built up toxicity.

The words "happiness" and "joy" are

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



closely related but they are not exactly the same.

In the strict sense, we tend to think of happiness as coming more from the gratification of our senses than anything else.

We crave good food, music and the smell of fresh air. These all bring sensual gratification and contentment.

The fullness of happiness requires something deeper, however, something that arises in the soul: joy.

The inner life of joy completes our happiness.

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude and the greatest honor we can give to almighty God.

Spiritual joy is a gift that comes from the inner presence of divine life. Abiding in God, we touch his life, and this fills us with spiritual joy and happiness.

There's hope for Tony Soprano, but he has to get to the point where he is able to accept these ideas.

He is too habituated in a way of life that has left him spiritually blind, deaf and mute.

He killed off his conscience years ago, justifying murder as a matter of justice and seeing himself as the chief of police, the judge and the jury.

St. Paul wrote: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace" (Gal 5:22).

In order to cultivate a joyful spirit we all need to invoke the Holy Spirit right from the beginning, because above all joy is a gift.

## A joyful season

*Lent — a time to renew our hearts and minds*

"Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed" (Preface of Lent 1).

The purpose of Lent is succinctly expressed by this preface. Catechumens prepare for baptism into the paschal mystery. The faithful are reminded of their baptism, and will renew their baptismal vows at the Easter liturgy.

### Baptism and life

This baptismal focus is a life focus and is illumined by Lenten readings as well as by Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life").

Baptism initiates us into the eternal life Christ gives us. "Eternal" does not only mean it never ends. It also refers to the "quality" of that life; namely, it is a share in the life of the eternal God.

The baptized, therefore, are sons and daughters of God and are members of the church, the People of Life (see "Evangelium Vitae" No. 79). The baptized have taken hold of the eternal life promised them (see Rom.6:4) and are already living it (Gal 2:19-20; John 6:47).

### Baptismal choices

The choices of the baptized are therefore to be shaped by their new identities (see Rom 6:6; Eph. 4:17-24). We see how Christ calls the Samaritan woman to repent as she accepts the waters of new life (see John 4:15-24).

Lenten repentance is necessary so that God's people may more deeply become who they are. They are called to see their sins more clearly. Hence baptism is known as "illumination." The passage about the man born blind (John 9) is therefore a key Lenten passage (4th Sunday of Lent-A and optional Mass for 4th week of Lent).

### Empty promises

All who make the Lenten journey are called to be more alert to the attacks on human life and dignity. The people of life are called to reject sin and all the devil's works and empty promises (Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Easter Liturgy).

The "pro-choice" and "right-to-die" mentalities are two of those "empty promises" that are firmly rejected by the baptized. A firm rejection of these positions is integral to repentance. Lent is the perfect time for us to call our congregations to a clearer understanding of why this is true, and to lead them to a deeper affirmation of life, both natural

### Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE  
GUEST COLUMNIST



and eternal, in the celebration of the paschal mystery.

### Metanoia

Repentance, a key theme of Lent, is a changing of the mind — and with it, one's life — away from the path of sin and toward a life of holiness.

It is not possible to repent of a sin which one does not recognize or admit is a sin. During Lent, we ask to be delivered from such blindness and to be forgiven of even our hidden sins.

The application of this to the abortion problem is clear when we consider that the injustice of this act has been proclaimed as a "right" and a legitimate "choice." Because such respectable elements of society as the U.S. Supreme Court, many medical associations and even some Christian denominations continue to call abortion a "right," many find it hard to recognize it as a wrong.

Part of the purification of Lent involves the metanoia, the "change of mind," so necessary in this area.

### Penitential practices

The works of charity that constitute a fundamental form of penance can include reaching out to those in need of concrete assistance in their pregnancies.

Volunteering at pregnancy resource centers is a perfect way to do this, as is the effort to make such centers better known in the community.

A common fund could be established, for example, to purchase an ad in the paper or the phone book. Giving to such a fund is, in fact, helping the poorest of the poor. To stand up in any way for the unborn child can be a penitential act, since it often brings unwarranted criticism, even from fellow worshipers who should be doing more themselves to end abortion.

This Lent, may the whole Catholic Church be strengthened in her mission to build the culture of life.

*Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.*

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

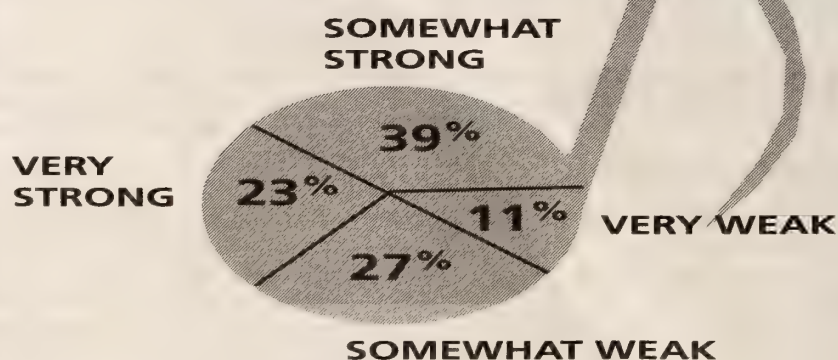
To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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## Can Catholics Sing?

Parish members rate their congregations' singing as...



Source: National Association of Pastoral Musicians

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# The Internet: A blessing and a curse

Web's dark side can have dangerous consequences

Editor's note: This column contains graphic descriptions.

Oh the Internet! It's a blessing and a curse. It makes possible all sorts of things, some good and some bad. It has redefined how we talk about things, meet people, get information and pass our time.

It has isolated us and it has connected us.

As a parish priest who has a pretty low opinion of high-tech, I have been slow to learn about or use the Internet. But it has changed our lives.

On the plus side, we can get information instantly. I can put a line from Scripture into the search engine and get citations and commentary in seconds. I can find quotes and authors more easily than looking on my bookshelf.

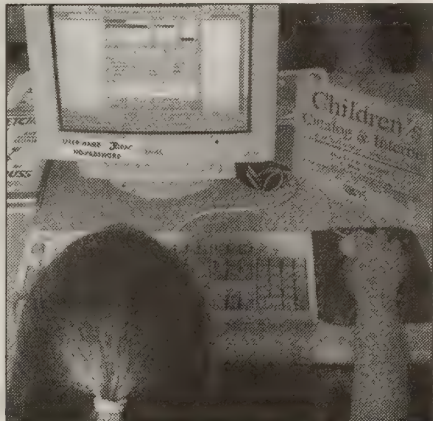
This year our parishioners were thinking about starting a new program for the homeless. A committee was able to research how programs are run in dozens of communities and pick the best program.

It was fantastic. In only a few days a complete operational manual was assembled.

On the negative side, the Internet has been dangerous and sometimes ruinous to spiritual lives. The worst thing that it has brought directly into our homes is a flood of pornography.

Twenty-one years ago, when I first started hearing confessions, pornography addiction was not such a commonly confessed sin. Now I frequently hear it from people of all ages.

One new penance I have been using



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

An area at Quince Orchard Public Library in Gaithersburg, Md., is set aside specifically for use by children 13 and younger.

in confession is an Internet "fast": "Go one day or two days without the Internet for your penance," is what I tell people.

Years ago people had to leave their home and go to some sleazy store to get pornography. It was a danger in the red-light districts of big cities only. Now it comes into bedrooms and family rooms everywhere.

The problem with this is ready availability.

Now even timid people who would not be caught dead buying something in public are downloading unbelievable filth that makes them miserable.

For young people this World Wide Web is a spider's web that catches them and holds them in misery.

This is not a question of some

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



occasional dalliance with some mildly erotic stuff. For some people it is totally debilitating.

A few years ago I counseled a man who had gotten into this addiction. He was on disability, so he did not work.

Eventually he completely stopped leaving his apartment. He stopped talking to people. Once he had been a trim, handsome young man.

He gained weight and started living in real filth. So complete was his addiction he even cut himself off from his mother.

One night his mother tried to get him on the telephone. No answer. So she went over and entered his apartment with the help of the manager.

He was dead, surrounded by piles of filthy pictures that he had downloaded or purchased online. She called the police and the sheriff called me.

When I got over to the apartment he was already cold. He was lying there on the sofa surrounded by these horrible photos. I remember crying as I anointed him and said the prayers for the dead over him. What a sadness!

Most addictions are not that bad but the danger is there.

The Internet is a tool, a powerful tool. But like any power tool, it can be dangerous.

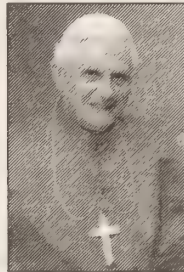
It brings the world into our homes, good and bad.

It used to be that the dangers were out there. Now they are right in the room with us. Beware.

## Pope says never stop praying, asking God for Christian unity

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics to participate in the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, praying that God would help Christians witness together the gift of salvation in Christ.

The theme of the 2008 celebration is "Pray Without Ceasing," an invitation that the pope said he wanted to make his own and "address to the whole church."

"Yes, it is necessary to pray without ceasing, asking God with insistence for the great gift of unity among all the Lord's disciples," he said Jan. 16 at his weekly general audience.

In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict continued his series on the life and teaching of St. Augustine, focusing on his efforts to keep Christians united, fight heresy, comfort victims of war and prepare for his own death.

Resigning as bishop of Hippo, in what today is Algeria, St. Augustine wanted to dedicate the rest of his days to Scripture study and prayer, the pope said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our catechesis this week is again centered on the life and writings of the great doctor of the church, St. Augustine. Some four years before he died, Augustine designated his successor in the See of Hippo, desiring to devote the rest of his life to the study of the Scriptures.

Nevertheless, those proved to be years of extraordinary activity, as the aged bishop sought to reconcile divided Christians and to bring peace to the troubled African provinces of the empire.

During the Vandal invasion of Africa, Augustine found solace in reflection on the mystery of God's providence. The world, he said, is growing old and failing, yet Christ remains eternally young and brings renewed youth to those who put their faith in him.

Amid the calamities of the time, he encouraged the clergy not to abandon their flock, but to offer the supreme witness of Christian charity.

Augustine died in 431, during the siege of Hippo, having devoted his last days to penance and prayer. At last his great heart found its rest in God.

Today, as in past centuries, may Augustine's example and the rich treasury of his writings be a source of instruction, inspiration and strength as the church makes her pilgrim way to the fullness of God's Kingdom.

# Planning needed in an ever-changing world

New Year is a good time to review estate plans

For most people in today's world, change remains a constant. Your circle of loved ones can increase or diminish over time as children grow up and have children of their own, good friends move away, and new friends come into your life.

These are just three examples that can call for a review of long-term financial plans. Even thoughtful, well-drafted documents may require an update from time to time because of events in family life, changes in tax laws or economic fluctuations.

An estate plan typically revolves around a will. This document outlines provisions for members of your family and other loved ones, as well as charitable interests including your Catholic community. It can also be used to distribute property not placed in a trust or other arrangement, as well as express to the court your choice of guardian for

minor children or others in your care.

After the initial estate plan is in place, it is important to review it with an attorney either when significant changes occur in your life or about every three years. This helps assure that your wishes will be carried out as you intended.

Typical events that might warrant revisions include a birth, a change in marital status or the loss of a loved one. Changes in friendships, affiliations or charitable interest may prompt the need for a review, as can a significant change in wealth or a move to another state.

Instead of starting over with a new will each time revisions become necessary, most changes can be made by using a simple codicil, or amendment, to your original document. Working with an experienced estate planning attorney may allow you to minimize estate settlement expenses and taxes, leaving more of your assets for loved ones and

## Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



charitable interests.

Catholics from all walks of life tell view estate planning as opportunities for faithful Christian stewardship by assuring ongoing support for their families and loved ones, their churches, a Catholic school, the Diocese of Charlotte, the diocesan foundation or other Catholic entities.

As one who has seen the heartache caused by an absence of long term planning, I encourage you to take the time as we begin this new year to protect your heirs and your assets through proper estate planning.

Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org).



# Receiving a new 'life of grace'

*Pope baptizes 13 infants, urges parents to guide them spiritually*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Presiding over one of his favorite annual liturgies, Pope Benedict XVI baptized 13 infants and urged their parents to educate them in faith, hope and charity.

The newly baptized need material care and attention, but above all they need spiritual guidance as they grow older, he said.

"Dear parents, be the first witnesses of an authentic faith in God," he said.

The pope celebrated the Mass Jan. 13 at the Sistine Chapel's original main altar, instead of using the free-standing temporary altar as had been customary in recent years.

Because the original altar stands against the chapel wall, that meant the pope celebrated parts of the Mass turned away from the people, facing the cross and Michelangelo's fresco of "The Last Judgment."

The Vatican's liturgical office, now headed by Msgr. Guido Marini, explained in a note that the change was made to respect the structure of the chapel and not to "alter the beauty and harmony of this architectural jewel."

"This means that in some moments the pope will find himself with his back to the faithful and his eyes on the cross, thus orienting the attitude and disposition of the entire assembly," it said.

The Mass was celebrated in Italian and, as usual, followed the liturgy of the 1970 Roman Missal.

The pope beamed as he poured water from a gilded shell onto the heads of each of the infants and said their names. All the newly baptized were children of Vatican City employees.

As in other years, the Mass had a familial atmosphere. The brothers and sisters of the baptized carried the offertory gifts, and a chorus of crying babies competed with the Sistine Chapel Choir throughout the liturgy.

In his homily, the pope said the baptized infants were receiving a "new life, the life of grace, which enables them to enter into a personal relationship with the Creator."

Although sin created an abyss between God and man, Christ's sacrifice bridged it, he said.

Baptism reopens the way toward this "fullness of life," he said.

At the end of the Mass, the pope momentarily lost his gold ring. As he began processing out of the chapel, he turned to Msgr. Marini and held out his hand to indicate the missing ring.

An assistant found it on the floor next to the altar.

Later, addressing pilgrims from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about the significance of Christ's baptism by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

By being baptized along with sinners, Jesus was beginning the process of taking on the burden of the faults of all humanity, he said.

It was a process that ended with his death on the cross, thus opening the way to eternal life, he said.



CNS PHOTO BY MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI baptizes a baby during a Mass inside the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 13.



CNS PHOTO BY MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI baptizes a baby during a Mass inside the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 13. The pope told the parents of the 13 infants he baptized to "be the first witnesses of an authentic faith in God."



**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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A look at poverty in  
America; a question to ask  
before Ash Wednesday

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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 13

## Catholics without borders

Immigration issues  
top concerns at border  
bishops' meeting

BY PAULA GOLFAPP  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LAREDO, Texas — Bishops from adjoining U.S. and Mexican dioceses said the main concern they shared at a Jan. 12 meeting was how immigrants are being treated in both countries.

Regardless of their legal status, people who try to cross the border into the United States need to be treated as human beings, said Bishop Patrick J. Zurek.

The auxiliary bishop from San Antonio will be installed as bishop of Amarillo, Texas, Feb. 22.

The latest in a series of regular cross-border meetings was closed to the media, but several bishops later discussed the general themes of the

See BORDER, page 5

## Affecting Afghan's future

Aid workers say poverty  
contributes to country's  
security dilemma

BY CHRIS HERLINGER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

KABUL, Afghanistan — Poverty contributes to Afghanistan's security dilemma and violence, said aid workers.

"Poverty is the source of the instability," said Mohammad Zakir Stanikzai,

See VIOLENCE, page 6

## 'With the spirit of truth and charity'

Pro-life marchers  
take to streets of  
Charlotte

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Among a sea of marchers, many of whom carried large pro-life posters, one sign stood out. It stated: "I regret my abortion."

Andrea Hines held the sign up but her expression was downcast. She was one of the 150 men, women and children who took part in the second Charlotte Right to Life March Jan. 18.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis walked with the marchers from the diocesan Pastoral Center on South Church Street to Tryon Square, the intersection Trade and Tryon streets in the heart of Charlotte.

As the group made their way up Tryon Street, many genuflected as they passed in



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

More than 150 people walk, pray and carry pro-life placards down Tryon Street while taking part in the Charlotte Right to Life March Jan. 18.

See MARCH, page 9



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Participants in the 35th annual March for Life make their way up Constitution Avenue on their walk to the Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22.

## Pro-life marchers come on foot, by car and bus — and motorcycle

Activists gather on stage and on streets  
at March for Life

BY CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Some came to the 35th annual March for Life on Harley-Davidsons.

Others came to Washington on foot, on the Metro subway system, in cars, in buses and on planes. They came riding in wheelchairs and pushing strollers.

But all the marchers came with the same hope — to end abortion in the United States.

Tens of thousands of people flooded the National Mall as they rallied Jan. 22 in preparation for a march in the biting cold down Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court.

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## Suffering in the dark

Power outage affects  
Catholics in Gaza

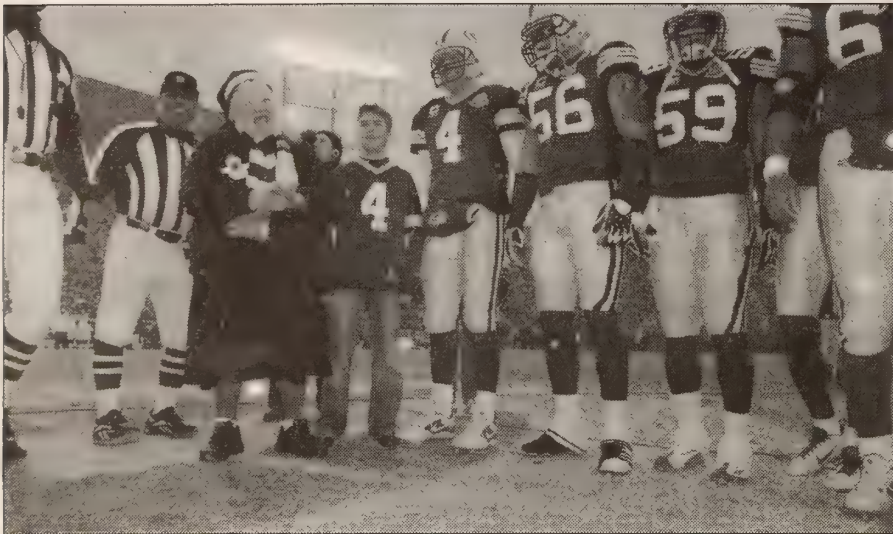
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## SISTER 'G-FORCE CAPTAIN'



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES V. BIEVER, GREEN BAY PACKERS

Franciscan Sister Sean Marie Tobin is all smiles as she joins Green Bay Packers players on the turf at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis., Jan. 12 for the coin toss. Sister Tobin won a Packers playoff-ticket essay contest with an entry about how she has been a Packers fan since 1945. Her prize was to serve as an honorary "G-Force Captain," representing all Packers fans at the Jan. 12 playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks.

## Franciscan's essay wins her spot as honorary captain at Packers game

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Packer nation, meet your captain: Franciscan Sister Sean Marie Tobin.

Visitors to the Green Bay Packers' official Web site, Packers.com, selected Sister Tobin of Manitowoc as winner of the site's playoff-ticket essay contest.

According to the Packers' Web site, more than 5,000 essays were submitted, and more than 5,000 votes were cast. Sister Tobin, 68, was one of five essay finalists.

Her prize was to serve as honorary "G-Force Captain," representing all Packer fans at the Jan. 12 playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Green Bay defeated Seattle 42-20 to advance to the NFL's National Football Conference championship game against the New York Giants Jan. 20. She repeated her honorary captain duties for that game.

"Looking up and seeing 72,000 fans and knowing you are representing them is a humbling experience," Sister Tobin said.

She received two free tickets to the game and took center stage during the coin toss when she accompanied the team captains to midfield.

Brett Favre was among the captains, and while Sister Tobin is a fan of the future Hall of Fame quarterback, she was even more thrilled to meet her favorite Packer on this year's squad, wide receiver Donald Driver, who "seems like he is really a generous person," she said.

In her essay, Sister Tobin wrote about how she has been a Packers fan since 1945. Her father introduced her to the game of football, and the "Ice Bowl" — a memorable Packer victory played Dec. 31, 1967, against the Dallas

Cowboys — was the last game she attended with him.

Her father was in her thoughts during the Jan. 12 game.

"It was like this was planned upstairs. We didn't know where our tickets would be. When we got to our seats, we were two rows down from where I sat at the 'Ice Bowl,'" she said.

Sister Tobin wrote in her essay that her "loyalty, enthusiasm, positive thinking and prayer for the safety of the players" qualified her to be an honorary captain.

As a representative of the fans, she sought to meet as many as possible by walking around the parking lot and visiting tailgate parties prior to the game.

"They (fans) were so warm and receptive," she said. "Some told me they voted for me. Some told me they read my essay. I got the warmest reception. After the game, some fans wanted pictures with me."

A member of the Franciscans in Manitowoc since 1960, she has been a teacher and a principal. She is now in semiretirement at the convent, she said.

"We (sisters) don't retire," she said. "We redistribute energy."

She stays busy as a mentor, teaching English as a second language, and participates in Touchstone, a program involving visits and letters to retired priests and religious now living in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

Sister Tobin hoped for a victory for the Packers over the New York Giants on Jan. 20, but the Giants won 23-20 in overtime.

"I think both teams (were) on a roll," she said.

## Panelists assess 'Kennedy moment' and its impact on today's campaigns

NEW YORK (CNS) — Then-Sen. John F. Kennedy's eloquent defense of the separation of church and state in a 1960 address successfully deflected suspicion that his presidency would be governed by his Catholic religion.

But by using ambiguous language, the speech also isolated his personal beliefs from potential public policy positions in a way that is not possible for contemporary candidates, concluded panelists at a Jan. 16 discussion of "Religion and the Race for the Presidency: The Kennedy Moment."

The event, attended by 400 people, was held at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York.

The so-called "Kennedy moment" was an 11-minute speech to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association Sept. 12, 1960.

In it, Kennedy said, "Whatever issue may come before me as president ... I will make my decision ... in accordance with what my conscience tells me to be in the

national interest, and without regard to outside religious pressure or dictates."

Father J. Bryan Hehir, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston and professor of religion and public life at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., said Kennedy was "confronting a momentous problem," which accounted for the combination of strong words and an ambiguous message.

Kennedy tried to build two firewalls in the speech and breach them with one statement, he said. "The first firewall is the absolutist position on the separation of church and state and the second, more ambiguous one, is that a president's religion should be private," he said.

"He was either claiming his right to make his own religious choices or saying that religion is inherently a private matter," he said.

The breach statement was Kennedy's promise "to resign if it came to a crisis," Father Hehir said.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Franciscan Father Ed Flanagan will lead a parish mission, "Awakening our Faith in Challenging Times" at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., Jan. 26-30. Father Flanagan will preach at all weekend Masses. The mission begins Jan. 28 with Mass at 9 a.m. and mission at 7 p.m.; Jan. 29: Mass at 9 a.m. and mission and reconciliation at 7 p.m.; and Jan. 30: Mass and mission and anointing at 7 p.m. For more information, call David Reiser at (704) 535-3310.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilyorth Rd. East., will have a vigil Mass, rosary and Benediction for the unborn Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convoking 2008-09 as a special Pauline year marking the 2000 anniversary of St. Paul's birth, a Pauline Symposium featuring five talks by five speakers will be held in the banquet room of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning Jan. 31, 7-8:30 p.m., with "Subverting Caesar's Empire, Building God's Kingdom" by Father Patrick Toole, parochial vicar.

CHARLOTTE — Several adult Bible study groups meet at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The Book of Acts is studied Mondays, 9:30-11 a.m. The Book of Exodus is studied Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. The Men's Bible Study meets Wednesdays following the 7 a.m. Mass. NEW: Deacon Curtiss Todd will explore Book of Job Thursdays, 6:45 p.m. For more information, call Susan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 210.

CHARLOTTE — Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning of reflection and attend the Ignatian retreat "Second Journey: Spirituality after 40" Jan. 26 at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. Registration at 8:30 a.m., retreat begins 9 a.m. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to church. To register, call Father Vince Alagia at (704) 332-2901.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

LINCOLNTON — A forty-hour devotion will be held Feb. 1-3 at St. Dorothy Church, 148 Saint Dorothy's Ln, in preparation for the parish's parochial feast day. All are invited for eucharistic adoration during the 40 hours of prayer. For more information, call (704) 735-5575 or visit [www.stdorothy.org](http://www.stdorothy.org)

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church,

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican official condemns cloning of human embryos by U.S. company

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official condemned the reported cloning of human embryos and said the idea of using them to produce "personalized" therapeutic stem cells was morally illicit and pointless.

Such cloning represents "the worst type of exploitation of the human being," Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, told Vatican Radio Jan. 18.

"As for the possible justification that this would be used to provide therapy, up to now there's been no success at this, and even if there were, it would not be permissible to use the human being as a medicine," Bishop Sgreccia said.

The California biotech company Stemagen reported Jan. 17 that it had cloned the embryos from adult

skin cells.

The company is interested in developing clones of patients, from which stem cells could then be harvested to grow replacement tissue.

Five of the embryos were said to have been grown to an advanced stage, to the point that they could have been implanted in a womb.

Company officials emphasized that they were not interested in creating cloned babies.

Bishop Sgreccia said that using embryos to produce stem cells already is outdated, given recent advances in making stem cells without creating an embryo.

In that sense, he said, human cloning has lost "even the pretext" of therapeutic justification.

4145 Johnson St., will host an *open house* Jan. 30 at 7:15 p.m. for the general public, IHM parishioners and anyone else with questions regarding or interest in the Catholic faith. The event will include a tour of the church, refreshments and a question-and-answer session. For more information, please contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or hlkw@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — Father Peter West of Priests for Life will lead a *pro-life Lenten mission* at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Feb. 9-13. He will speak at weekend Masses: 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9; 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10; and give nightly talks at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 11-13.

GREENSBORO — *Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Greensboro 1200* will meet Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady's Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. For more information, contact Lawrene Kirwan at (336) 292-2776. Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principle of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and advancement of human rights and dignity for all.

GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will meet for *Mass and luncheon* at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. RSVP to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693 by Jan. 28. Practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wives of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, are invited to participate in the LAOH, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets

Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

FRANKLIN — *The Respect for Life group* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27, at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. David Harold (Naturalism, Semi-Taoism) will speak Jan. 30 and Franciscan Father Bill Robinson (Roman Catholic) will speak Feb. 13. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or (336) 723-1092.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 27 — 10 a.m.

Installation of Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme as pastor  
St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis

Jan. 30 — 9 a.m.

Catholic Schools Week school Mass  
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Jan. 31 — 10:15 a.m.

Catholic Schools Week school Mass  
Bishop McGuinness High School, Kernersville

Feb. 1 — 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Schools Week school Mass  
Sacred Heart School, Salisbury

## Italian newspaper says pope to change Tridentine prayer for Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has decided to reformulate a Good Friday prayer in the 1962 Roman Missal that was offensive to Jews, according to an Italian newspaper.

The new prayer will drop all reference to the "blindness" of the Jews in refusing Christ as savior, the newspaper, *Il Giornale*, reported Jan. 18.

The Vatican did not officially confirm the report, but sources said privately that a rewriting of the prayer was likely and could be made public soon.

The issue arose last year when the pope liberalized use of the 1962 missal, known popularly as the Tridentine rite. The missal contains a prayer for the conversion of Jews, recited on Good Friday.

While the prayer would not be recited in most parishes, particular Catholic communities devoted to the old rite could use it in Good Friday liturgies.

The prayer for Jews in the 1962 missal is part of a series of prayers for the conversion of non-Christians.

Although the 1962 missal no longer contains a reference to "perfidious

Jews," which was dropped in 1959, the text of the Good Friday prayer and the possibility of its wider use brought objections from Jewish leaders.

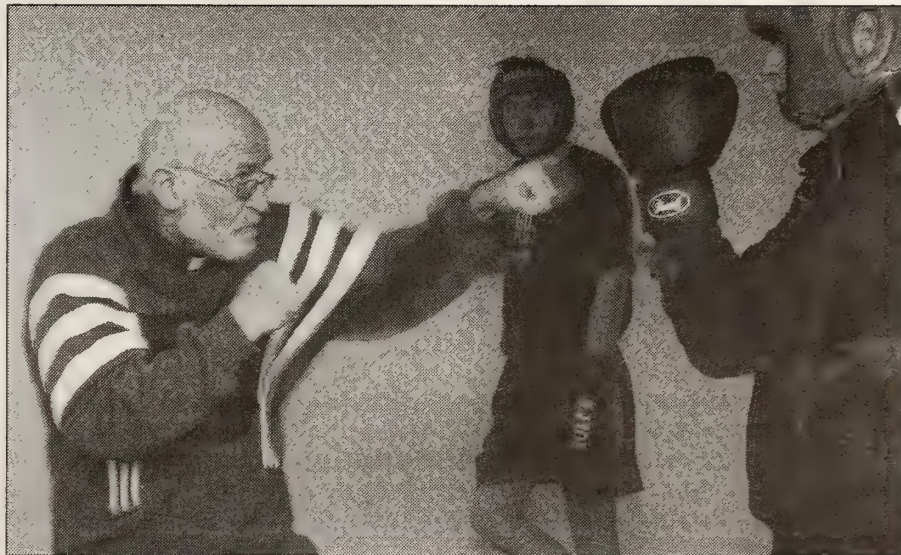
The chief rabbis of Israel sent a letter of concern about the prayer to the pope, and Abraham H. Foxman, U.S. director of the Anti-Defamation League, said it was disappointing and offensive to see "anti-Jewish language" return to the liturgy after its removal nearly 40 years ago.

Even as the pope issued his document on the extraordinary form of the Mass, Vatican officials were suggesting that the Good Friday prayer could be revised.

Later, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, said the problem might be resolved by simply substituting the current missal's version of the prayer. That text describes the Jewish people as "the first to hear the word of God" and prays that they "may arrive at the fullness of redemption."

But Pope Benedict, according to the Italian newspaper report, opted to completely reformulate the prayer for the 1962 missal.

## Spiritual sparring



CNS PHOTO BY KACPER PEMPEL, REUTERS

Father Zbigniew Dudek shows teenagers how to box at a boxing club in Maslonskie, in southern Poland, Jan. 21. The Catholic priest teaches boxing in his free time, believing that the sport develops universal characteristics useful in everyday life as well as in faith. He describes the sport as a "discipline" rather than a fight. The priest said similarities can be drawn between the sermons in his church, where the word of God is meant to help guard people against the trials of daily life, and the sparring sessions, where the body and mind are taught to be resistant in a slightly different way.

## Barnyard bedlam? Animals take center stall in St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid an occasional chorus of moo, oink, baa and neigh, Cardinal Angelo Comastri blessed several dozen animals peacefully munching their lunch in St. Peter's Square.

The Jan. 17 noon blessing of a donkey and her baby, a water buffalo and her calf, a skittish ostrich, a large white boar, rabbits and baby bunnies, hens and geese, milk cows, a horse and a steer, sheep, lambs and goats marked the feast of St. Anthony the Abbot. The animals belonged to members of an Italian association of farmers and ranchers. St. Anthony, who died in Egypt in 356, is

the patron saint of the association.

Cardinal Comastri, papal vicar of Vatican City, celebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with most of the members of the association, while a handful waited with their livestock in the square for the blessing.

The Vatican set up 14 sturdy stalls in the square for most of the four-legged critters and the ostrich. The bunnies and fowl were in spacious cages.

Along with black rubber buckets for water and feed, the Vatican also moved a few large dumpsters into the square, for obvious purposes.



## Couple makes temporary promises to Secular Discalced Carmelites

ASHEVILLE — Jim and Loretta Potts, parishioners of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, recently made their temporary promises to the Flower of Carmel Community and to the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites.

After two and a half years of initial formation, the Potts made their promises before members of the Flower of Carmel Community and friends during a Mass celebrated in the couple's Asheville home Nov. 10, 2007.

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Hagolf, the community's spiritual assistant, celebrated the Mass and officiated at the ceremony, during which the Potts promised to live for three years under the three evangelical counsels — poverty, chastity and obedience — and in the spirit of the beatitudes. Elizabeth Pantas, the community's formation director, accepted the Potts' promises on behalf of the community.

Jim Potts said his spiritual journey with the community has resulted in an "improvement in daily prayer life, which brings me closer to Jesus."

Loretta Potts said her spiritual journey as "given (her) the insight that knowledge and wisdom of God is more meaningful than knowledge and wisdom of the world."

The Potts now enter a period of formation consisting of study, prayer and monthly community meetings. At the end of this period, the Potts may be invited to make permanent promises.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elizabeth Pantas, Jim Potts, Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Hagolf and Loretta Potts are pictured after a Mass in the Potts' Asheville home Nov. 10, 2007.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites consists of lay persons and diocesan priests who strive for Christian perfection according to the spirit and ideals of the Discalced Carmelites.

Following in the way of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila, the 16th-century Carmelite reformer and mystic, Secular Carmelites endeavor to make their lives grace-filled and fruitful for the church and the world. They are called upon to carry into the world the witness, message and example of the Discalced Carmelites.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Flower of Carmel Community, contact President Ella Reid at (828) 667-3903, or visit [www.flowerofcarmel.org](http://www.flowerofcarmel.org).

## Knightly duties



COURTESY PHOTO BY LEWIS MCLLOUD

A Knights of Columbus honor guard is pictured before a Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Jan. 5. The Mass concluded a 2008 status and planning kickoff meeting of the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Charlotte. During the meeting, Knights from councils throughout the diocese met with the state leadership team and state chaplain, Father Marcos Leon-Angulo, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Whiteville, N.C.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).

## "Light the Way"

Catholic Schools Week is the time to let people know that our schools really do "Light the Way," by providing a faith-based education that supports the whole child in improved learning, and in leading a fulfilled, balanced and meaningful life. Catholic Schools also "Light the Way" by supporting families and making a positive and lasting impact in our communities.

Catholic Schools Week is Jan. 27- Feb. 2, 2008

All Faiths Welcome!



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS





# Immigration issues top concerns at border bishops' meeting

BORDER, from page 1

session with a reporter for the South Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Corpus Christi Diocese.

Bishop Zurek said the group met with representatives of various government entities, including the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. consulate in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and the general counsel for Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Most striking to him, said Bishop Zurek, was learning that "so often Mexicans are deported and dumped right across the border."

Many deportees are minors with no family waiting for them in Mexico, so they often become involved in drug and/or sex trafficking for mere survival, he said.

The border bishops were quite concerned about the situation of minors who are deported to Mexico. Bishop Zurek said they learned children are sometimes left to fend for themselves.

Bishop Alonso Gerardo Garza Trevino of Piedras Negras, Mexico, across the border from Eagle Pass, Texas, said it was unsettling to hear that an estimated 20,000 children come to the U.S. from Mexico and other Latin American countries each year.

He said he hoped the church in Mexico and Texas could set up homes for children following the example of Lolita Ayala, a well-known broadcaster and philanthropist from Mexico City who

"Every day ... hundreds are deported back here and it's an action against their humanity."

— Bishop Renato Ascencio Leon

established "Solo por Ayudar" (Only to Help), a shelter for children.

Bishop Renato Ascencio Leon of the Ciudad Juarez Diocese in Mexico is a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers and has headed the Mexican bishops' conference's migration committee for eight years.

"Every day in Ciudad Juarez, hundreds are deported back here and it's an action against their humanity," said Bishop Leon.

He described two aspects of the bishops' concerns on immigration — the approach of governments and the approach of the people.

Bishop Leon said he believes "Hispanic people living in the U.S. are favorable toward migrants" and that the "major problem facing the government is the need to come up with a way for the undocumented people in the U.S. to become legal."

Among his recent concerns, he



CNS PHOTO BY PAULA GOLDAPP, SOUTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

U.S. and Mexican bishops celebrate Mass on the banks of the Rio Grande near Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Jan. 13. In observance of the Day of the Migrant, a group of Catholic pilgrims and bishops walked from Laredo, Texas, across a bridge to meet their counterparts from Mexico before the Mass. The events followed a meeting of U.S. and Mexican bishops whose dioceses fall along the border.

said, is the Legal Arizona Workers Act that took effect Jan. 1; under it, business owners risk losing their state and local licenses if they knowingly hire undocumented workers.

A first offense gets a minimum 10-day suspension and licenses may be revoked for a second offense.

"That leaves our country with all kinds of problems," said Bishop Leon.

That includes fewer jobs for those who commonly crossed into Arizona for work.

Laredo Bishop James A. Tamayo, who hosted the meeting, said that after each of the gatherings he walks away with hope, despite the complex and troubling issues the bishops discuss.

Following the session for bishops, a public march to the border crossing and an outdoor Mass gave witness to the community that "the bishops stand together for dignity and unity for every person," said Bishop Tamayo.

The border bishops will meet again privately in June in the Archdiocese of Chihuahua, Mexico, and will gather next January in Reynosa, Mexico, in the Diocese of Matamoros.

Bishop Tamayo said that meeting will also include a public march and Mass during National Migration Week and will continue discussions on how churches on both sides of the river can lighten the burdens of families split by the border.

Bishop Tamayo said one concern for the bishops is finding ways to help divided families celebrate the sacraments together without fear of deportation or detention.

Bishop Ricardo Watty Urquidi of the Mexican Diocese of Nuevo Laredo said the information gathered from the presentations during the meeting "gave us light on this phenomenon, and then we talked. ... We didn't have a solution; we just want to know how to help."

**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**

*Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte*

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HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE  
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Because of the opportunities for spiritual growth and the popularity of our recent trip, the Diocese of Charlotte has plans for another 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land during the first 2 weeks of November 2009. The exact dates and price will be determined at the end of this year as airfares become available.

Space will be limited to 40 people so if you would like to receive a brochure before the general announcement is made, please send your name and address to: [cfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:cfeerick@charlottediocese.org) or Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.



## Aid workers say poverty contributes to Afghanistan's security dilemma

VIOLENCE, from page 1

a senior program officer for the U.S.-based humanitarian organization Church World Service.

His work takes him to many of Afghanistan's rural areas. "People feel like: 'Why not join the Taliban? We have nothing to lose,'" he said.

Rahima Khorosh, a Kabul resident and teacher at a center for children who have experienced violence, explained how it impedes the daily life of Kabul residents.

Khorosh recalled that Kabul was rocked by three suicide bombings in September and that her neighbors lost a daughter in one of the blasts.

"I don't know what will happen to me when I take my (daily, 15-minute) walk to the center," Khorosh said.

The British news agency Reuters reported Jan. 17 that attacks by the Taliban, backed by al-Qaida, have increased in the past two years. The Islamic-fundamentalist Taliban ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 until U.S.-led forces ousted them in 2001.

Fear of attacks has complicated humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, where aid work has never been easy in the best of circumstances.

"It is increasingly difficult for

"All of this means that we cannot do as much work as we would like or provide the level of technical support and field training that we would like."

— Paul Hicks

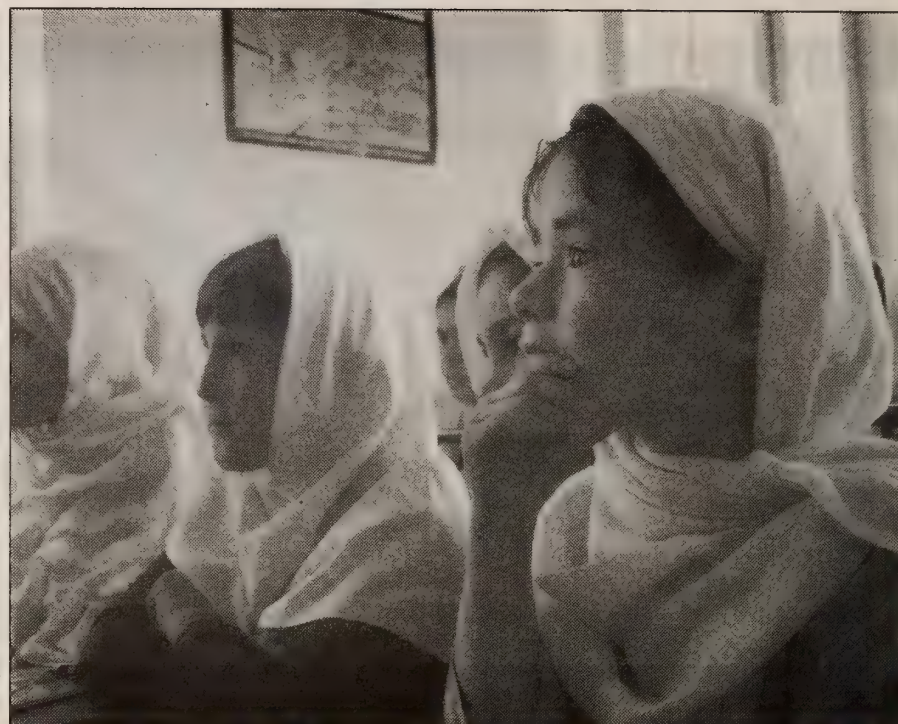
internationals to travel with confidence beyond urban areas," said Paul Hicks, country representative in Afghanistan for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

"All of this means that we cannot do as much work as we would like or provide the level of technical support and field training that we would like."

Noting that threats are not always related to the Taliban, Hicks said security in the field mostly "depends on our relationships with local community leaders as well as the local government leaders."

"While they keep us safe, they are also often under increasing pressure and more and more frequently recommend that we curtail traveling for periods of time," he told Catholic News Service in late December.

However, Hicks said there remains an impressive "drive and determination of local people," to deliver humanitarian assistance to areas that need it.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HERLINGER, CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Students in Kabul, Afghanistan, attend a rehabilitation center for youths who have experienced trauma and violence. Boys and girls share a classroom — something unthinkable during the Taliban era.

And overall, he said, "Afghanistan is a dynamic and exciting country."

He said what is "most impressive and inspiring" is Afghans' resilience.

"There is a real will to see progress in the country, and there is personal drive for each person to advance his or her professional training," Hicks said.

Noting Afghans' independence and "healthy resistance to impositions from the outside," Hicks said, "the

international community will need to learn to act with more humility in Afghanistan, recognizing that the Afghan people need to be planning and making decisions that affect their futures."

*Herlinger, a New York-based freelance journalist, was recently on assignment in Afghanistan for Church World Service.*

# Join us!

And Thousands of  
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Nation as We  
Celebrate How  
Catholic Schools  
"Light the Way."



January 27—February 2, 2008 is a very special week. It is Catholic Schools Week (CSW), the week schools across America open their doors and join together in a special celebration of how Catholic schools "Light the Way." Catholic schools really do "Light the Way," by providing a faith-based education that supports the whole child in improved learning, and in leading a fulfilled, balanced and meaningful life. Catholic Schools also "Light the Way" by supporting families and making a positive and lasting impact in our communities.

We'd like to invite you to join us this week, to discover more about the special role our schools play in the positive growth of our children.

**DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

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[www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools](http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools)





# Called to 'a massive undertaking'

*Roe v. Wade 'will not stand,' cardinal says at pro-life vigil Mass*

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Roe v. Wade, the 35-year-old Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion virtually on demand, "will not stand," Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said in his homily at a Jan. 21 evening Mass that opened the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life.

"Roe v. Wade is incompatible with human dignity," said Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"It must not stand. It cannot stand. It will not stand," he said.

His declaration drew applause from the packed Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. It was one of five times that the cardinal's remarks during his homily were met with applause.

Cardinal Rigali, echoing the New Testament reading from First Corinthians for the St. Agnes feast day Mass of



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

People sit on the floor during the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21. Thousands attended the service at the basilica on the eve of the annual March for Life. The events marked the 1973 Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion across the country.

Jan. 21, told the packed church that, "instead of choosing 'great' or impressive people in the eyes of the world, God uses the humble, the foolish, the weak and 'those who count for nothing' to accomplish his purposes."

"It is when we least expect it that the tiniest among us can humble the powerful," he said.

One example the cardinal cited was an embryo glimpsed by stem-cell researcher Dr. Shinya Yamanaka.

The doctor was quoted in The New York Times as saying, "When I saw the embryo, I suddenly realized there was such a small difference between it and my daughters. ... I thought, we can't keep destroying embryos for our research. There must be another way."

Yamanaka announced in December a technique that successfully turned adult

skin cells into the equivalent of human embryonic stem cells without using an actual embryo.

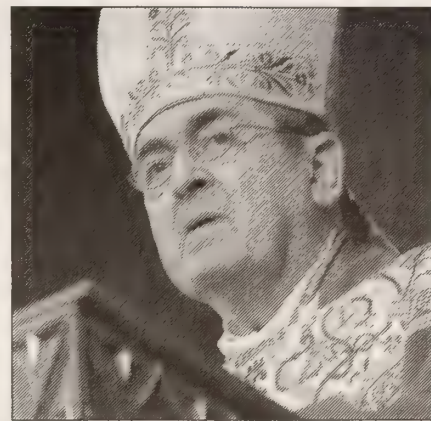
"If God can use a helpless embryo to change a human heart, he can certainly use us with all our limitations and weaknesses," Cardinal Rigali said.

"By seeking holiness and using the gifts God has given you to accomplish his will in your life," he continued, "you are contributing mightily to that kingdom we all long for, where there will be no more crying or pain or death."

"Certainly no abortion. No euthanasia. No assisted suicide. No deep-freezing of embryos as though they were merchandise. And no destruction of human life in the name of science," he said.

Cardinal Rigali said, "Our value does not come from being so-called 'productive' members of society, but from Emmanuel, God always with us."

He added, "We possess, or will be



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, delivers a homily during the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21.

given, enough time and resources to build a culture of life together."

During his homily, Cardinal Rigali drew a comparison between those attending the Mass and the new Knights of Columbus Incarnation Dome at the basilica, which required 2.4 million pieces of colored glass cut and assembled in Italy and shipped in 346 boxes for five months of installation.

"We too, dear friends, are called to a massive undertaking," Cardinal Rigali said. "This urgent project is well under way, but we know it is far from complete."

God "now sends you out, thousands upon thousands strong, to do your part in forming a vibrant mosaic on behalf of life," he added. "You must be the 'rich color' he created you to be. You must play your role in his overarching design, and be patient with others as they seek to do the same."

The earlier start of the vigil Mass — one hour earlier than in past years — appeared to make not one bit of difference in the numbers attending, as people squeezed into every pew, aisle, vestibule and side chapel in the basilica's main church.

The number of participants in the sanctuary was similarly large, as the entrance procession — featuring seminarians, deacons, priests and more than 40 bishops who were concelebrants — took 30 minutes to complete.

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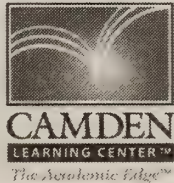
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# Thousands participate in annual March for Life

LIFE, from page 1

Marchers of nearly every age, gender and religion carried signs protesting abortion. Some pro-life advocates prayed the rosary or chanted slogans.

Among them were approximately 1,000 people from the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses. That morning, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte celebrated Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh concelebrating.

"Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge sent a strong message to North Carolinians to stand on the side of life. The presence of so many at Mass on Jan. 22 for North Carolina pilgrims to the march was a testimony that many regard this as the paramount life issue," said Maggi Nadol, respect life director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Amid the usual Knights of Columbus "Defend Life" signs and the throngs of school and parish groups, Mark Hall's mobile ultrasound clinics parked on Sixth Street were an unusual new addition.

Hall and three other people drove up from Orlando, Fla., with a specially outfitted RV that they more typically park outside abortion clinics, offering women a last chance to take a look through ultrasound at the fetal lives they intend to end.

Hall and the "Messengers of Hope," as they call themselves, were recruiting people willing to volunteer to support their plans for a series of 40-day stops in seven different cities.

In the 12 years he has operated the mobile ultrasound service, Hall said the mission has persuaded more than 450 women not to go through with abortions they had been minutes away from having.

"Of those who have the ultrasound,

95 percent change their minds," he said.

Nearby, Father Chad Hatfield, chancellor of St. Vladimir Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, N.Y., said he brought 25 seminarians and others to Washington for the first time to emphasize that "we're winning" the fight against abortion.

"Look at the youth here," he said, gesturing to the crowds of high school-age and younger people nearby. "The other side has abandoned their future (by having abortions). We're creating ours."

On the stage, March for Life organizer Nellie Gray introduced a long program of politicians, clergy and other anti-abortion activists who helped warm up a crowd shivering in freezing temperatures and light drizzle.

Among the speakers, Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., headed off a long string of politicians to take the microphone to make sure participants saw the fight against abortion in political terms.

In his remarks recorded at a White House breakfast earlier that morning and replayed at the rally, President George W. Bush lauded those who work for "a culture of life where a woman with an unplanned pregnancy knows there are caring people who will support her; where a pregnant teen can carry her child and complete her education; where the dignity of both the mother and child is honored and cherished."

March organizer Gray said the turnout for the annual event underscores the recognition that "it's not going to work trying to change this from the top down. It's not working that way. We're going to unite the grass roots."

Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said the Knights, who help organize anti-abortion events around the country, do so because "abortion hurts everyone," from the unborn child and the parents to doctors and nurses who are compromised by their participation.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Eleven-year-old Stephen Maimone (left) attends the March for Life rally in Washington with other family members Jan. 22. The Maimone family, from Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City, N.C., was among the thousands of people taking part in the annual demonstration.

"It undermines respect for judges," he said. "It implicates the taxpayer who pays for it. It coarsens the society that tolerates it."

As in most other years, march participants came from far and near.

More than 20,000 young people from around the country filled the seats in the Verizon Center sports arena in Washington Jan. 22 for the annual Rally for Life and Youth Mass, celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

Youths attending this year received a special surprise: a personal message from Pope Benedict XVI, read by the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi.

In the message, the pope expressed his gratitude for the youths' commitment to life and said he looked forward to his visit to the United States in April.

On Constitution Avenue, a stay-at-home father, Samuel Laube from Mount Joy, Pa., pushed a stroller and brought three of his children to the march on a field trip. He hopes one day his children will be the next generation of youths to stand up for life.

Not too far away from Laube's sleeping babies stood a group of men with denim jackets, bandannas and

leather boots.

The Sons of God, a motorcycle group that promotes the Gospel to other bikers, came on Harley-Davidsons to defend fatherhood and defend life.

Jul Brown, who accompanied the bikers and whose husband is a member of the Sons of God, said when she had twins 23 years ago they were born five months premature with severe medical complications, and they remained in the hospital for two months. It was ironic, she said, because although she wanted her children to live just down the hall doctors aborted babies.

"That is my choice?" she asked. "We turn our heads from what is uncomfortable to us. I'm here to say let's protect the innocent."

Contributing to this story was Laura Jamison, Patricia Zapor, Meredith Black and Editor Kevin E. Murray.



Respect Life is a diocesan ministry supported by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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# Pro-life marchers take to streets of Charlotte

MARCH, from page 1

front of St. Peter Church.

Leading the march was a crucifix, carried by Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. Two Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers on bicycles provided a sidewalk escort for the walkers, allowing the long line to stay together.

Organizer Tina Witt, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, described the marchers as being a part of "God's army."

"They go with the spirit of truth and charity as our weapons," she said.

Witt handed rosaries to passersby and to people who were seated on the benches along the sidewalk.

At The Square, the marchers took positions on each of the four corners of the intersection. The damp and chilly weather reduced the number of the lunch-time office workers who normally throng to the area.

Bishop Jugis began the rally with a prayer delivered in the shadow of a statue depicting a woman holding a smiling baby aloft. The statue is called "Future."

"Bless our efforts to extend legal protection to the innocent child in the womb. Make us courageous witnesses for life in our rally and march today," said Bishop Jugis.

Then it was Hines' turn to speak. Her story began when, in 1977 as a college student, she became pregnant and was encouraged by her mother and boyfriend to get an abortion.

"It changed my life," she said. "I immediately fell into total remorse and shame. As far as I was concerned, I'd blown my life."

Unlike many women who undergo abortions, Hines married the man who



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis joins a group praying in front of the federal courthouse in Charlotte as part of the Charlotte Right to Life March Jan. 18.

fathered her aborted child.

"We stayed together, we love each other, but our relationship is tumultuous and it all stems from that [the abortion]," she said, a tear forming in her eye.

Hines, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, silently suffered with her guilt for 20 years. She planned to take the story of her abortion to the grave, never telling anyone about the baby she gave up.

"It's a hidden thing in our society. No one will talk about," she said, her voice a mixture of shame and anger.

But in the late 1090s, Hines had a change of heart, which she described as "agonizing." God, she felt, was talking to

her, asking her to share her abortion story.

"This is the Holy Spirit raising post-abortive people up. God showed me and told me that it was Satan who was keeping me down," said Hines.

"Abortion continues because of the silence surrounding it," she said.

The marchers prayed and sang in the noisy center of the city. A loudspeaker used to amplify the pro-life message

"Bless our efforts ... make us courageous witnesses for life ...."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

was positioned in the front of the 62-story Bank of America corporate headquarters building.

The location was fitting for a protest against abortion. A bank spokesperson confirmed that while the bank has no stand on the abortion issue, the company's health care coverage includes elective abortions.

Bank of America employs 209,000 workers.


After Hines and another post-abortive woman told their stories, the marchers walked two blocks to the federal courthouse on West Trade Street. There, Father Lawlor led the group in the recitation of the rosary.

Appropriately, Father Lawlor chose to focus on the five sorrowful mysteries.

As cars honked in the traffic and trucks roared by, the gentle voices being lifted in prayer for the innocent unborn could be heard, but barely.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

*Listen to speakers and hear interviews from the march on docPod, the diocesan podcast, at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).*



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## The good and bad of Harry Potter

*Writers in Vatican newspaper debate lessons of Rowling's novels*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican newspaper sponsored a face-off between a writer who said the Harry Potter novels offer lessons in the importance of love and self-giving and one who said they teach that with secret knowledge one can control others and the forces of nature.

The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, dedicated a full page in its Jan. 14-15 issue to the debate about the novels by J.K. Rowling.

The Italian translation of the last novel, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was released in early January.

Paolo Gulisano, a physician and the author of a biography of J.R.R. Tolkien, said that the Harry Potter books counter the individualism of the modern age by making a hero of a boy "guided by moral values such as the choice of good, giving, sacrifice, friendship and love."

The stories, he said, teach young people "without moralizing" that material riches, immortality and anything obtained without effort "are illusions and that what truly counts is commitment, friendship and love."

"It is not power, not success, not an easy life that lead to the truest and deepest joy, but friendship, self-giving and adhering to the truth," he said.

But Edoardo Rialti, a professor of English literature at the University of Florence, said the books "communicate a vision of the world and of the human person that is full of profound errors and dangerous suggestions."

First, he said, the books teach that "evil is good," and that violence, lying, trickery and manipulation can be positive if used to obtain something good.

But the deeper problem, he said, is that the books advocate gnosticism, the idea that a select elite can develop special powers and gifts through specialized knowledge that is hidden from most mortals — or "muggles," as normal humans are called in Rowling's books.

The professor ended his article by saying that Pope Benedict XVI was correct to express concern about the books in a 2003 letter to a German writer.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he wrote to Gabriele Kuby to acknowledge receipt of her book, "Harry Potter: Gut oder Böse" ("Harry Potter: Good or Bad"), which cautioned that children could become fascinated with the occult through reading the series.

The future pope praised Kuby's attempt to "enlighten people about Harry Potter" and the possible "subtle seductions" that can distort children's thinking before they mature in the Christian faith.

He also suggested Kuby send a copy of her book to Msgr. Peter Fleetwood, then an official at the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Msgr. Fleetwood told Catholic News Service in 2005 that he received a copy of the book in 2003 and wrote Kuby a four-page letter explaining where he thought she may have misunderstood or read too much into the books.

He said he never heard back from her.

Msgr. Fleetwood said the most appropriate way to judge Harry Potter is not on the basis of theology, but according to the criteria of children's literature and whether children will read the books willingly.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 3, 2008

Feb. 3, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
Psalm 146:6-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

### We are all one humble, caring people of God

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend and all of her siblings had come from near and far and gathered for their beloved father's funeral. It was a rare, but certainly appropriate, occasion for them all to be together, she had told me with real gratification in her voice.

At the reception after the funeral Mass, I mentioned that it was nice for me to finally see all these people whose stories I'd been hearing from her for years.

She raised her eyebrows but smiled affectionately as she said, "Yes, but you don't know who's who."

Surprisingly she was right.

Even though I'd observed the family throughout the service, I couldn't tell who was the crazy one or the aloof one or the selfish one — or the spiritual one or the generous one. On that day they were all the mourning one.

Somehow, in their mourning, they also all were the meek one, and the one

hungering for righteousness. They even all were the peacemaker.

On that day, steeped in the death of their father, each one of them was keenly aware of the nearness of God and reminded of their need for God.

The beatitudes work that way. When we are poor in spirit, meek and merciful, we will realize our need for God. Conversely, if we recognize our need for God, we become meek, merciful, poor and thirsty for justice.

As they came together in mutual love for their father and mutual dependence on God, my friend's family — at least on that day — was a compassionate, holy family, a community fully attentive to each other's needs and supporting one another.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus offers us the beatitudes so that we conscientiously may make an effort to be poor in spirit, hungering for righteousness, mourning and meek, because when we are, we will become a humble, caring people centered on our fundamental need for God.

#### Questions:

What personal habit or attitude keeps you separated from God? Which of the beatitudes do you most need at this time in your life to remind you of your need for God? Why?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord" (Zephaniah 3:12).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 26-FEB. 2

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time)**, Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; **Monday (St. Thomas Aquinas)**, 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday**, 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday**, 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (St. John Bosco)**, 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday**, 2 Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday (The Presentation of the Lord)**, Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 3-9

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time)**, Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday**, 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday (St. Agatha)**, 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

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# Worth a thousand words

*New photo resource provides interesting peek into Vatican's past*

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Scholars, history buffs and the public will now be able to peek inside some of the Vatican's historical black-and-white photograph collection.

The written contents of the Vatican photo service's entire Giordani Collection have been transcribed into a searchable Microsoft Word file that can be sent, free of charge, to anyone on request by e-mailing photo@ossrom.va.

Thanks to the new resource, some half-million images, mostly black and white and taken between 1933 and 1975, will be available more easily to the public for research and sale.

Prospective buyers also can request photos they would like to purchase by e-mailing photo@ossrom.va, specifying the photo caption and corresponding number.

The variety of pictures is astounding. One can find the usual pictures of the meetings and travels of Popes Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, and Paul VI; of important curial officials and visiting cardinals from all over the world; and of world leaders like Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Also captured are unique historical

moments, like American soldiers stopping at St. Peter's during World War II, Vatican personnel attending the 1960 Summer Olympic Games in Rome and Pope Paul VI meeting U.S. astronauts from Apollo 11, which landed the first men on the moon.

There are also more than 100 shots of Michelangelo's famous "Pieta" statue being packed in a crate and hauled out by crane for shipping to the 1964 World's Fair in New York.

Sometimes the snapshots just capture daily life in Rome and the Vatican or immortalize the ordinary: There is a picture of Pope John XXIII's shoemaker, ID snapshots of Vatican employees, and a photo of a man named "Galassi" who in 1960 was the Vatican's oldest "sampietrino" — one of the workers responsible for the upkeep of St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square.

But here and there are the odd and unusual, like a picture of someone's kidney stones, photos of ceramic cats and — perhaps because cars were still a novelty at the time — countless shots of fender benders and car accidents in and around the Vatican.

Readers can sift through the text line by line or do a word search of the 367 pages of photo captions in the electronic file.

Unfortunately, the file does not show



CNS COURTESY OF L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

U.S. President John F. Kennedy visits with U.S. seminarians at the North American College in Rome in 1963. This is one of thousands of historical black-and-white photographs from the Vatican's Giordani Collection available for research and sale to the public through the Vatican photo service.

the images. It is an exact transcription of the photographer's archival notes which means it is written in Italian and names are sometimes misspelled.

When looking for Neil Armstrong and Pope Paul, for example, typing in "Armastrong" for the U.S. astronaut will yield a find. But, on the whole, a search for "Spellman" to look for what images the file has of the late New York Cardinal Francis J. Spellman in Rome will give the reader numerous hits.

This new electronic file, which lists the contents of the "Giordani Collection," is a modest but significant start to the Vatican photo service's long-term plans of updating and improving how it archives and preserves its collections.

The collection takes its name from Francesco Giordani, the private Rome-based photographer the Vatican commissioned starting in the 1930s, long before the Vatican set up its own photography service in 1977. The half-million glass-plate and film negatives of varying dimensions are kept the same way Giordani stored them — in thousands of cardboard boxes.

Salesian Father Giuseppe Colombara, head of the Vatican's photo service,

which is part of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, told Catholic News Service that Giordani just reused the cardboard cartons his photographic paper came in for storing his negatives.

When Giordani closed up shop in 1978, the Vatican acquired his archive and the rights to use the photos.

Giordani kept meticulous notes and caption lines for his photographs in 37 notebooks dated 1933-1975. Each entry also includes a number indicating the box in which the negative is stored.

Father Colombara said officials decided to transcribe these notes into an electronic file to facilitate the search for the many photographs researchers, writers and historians request.

After spending months transcribing Giordani's cramped handwriting, the Salesian priest said officials decided the searchable file also should be made available to the public.

People also can do a limited search of the collection's images on the Web site [www.photo.va](http://www.photo.va). But, right now, only about 2,300 pictures from the collection have been uploaded to the site.

Scanning these old images onto the site is extremely labor-intensive, Father Colombara said, and the Vatican still does not have the money, personnel or proper equipment to scan and make public anytime soon all 500,000 images in the collection.

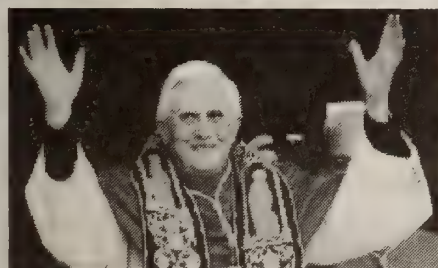
While digital photography has eased the way pictures are dated, captioned, organized and stored, he said this digital medium still poses enormous problems for storage. The large megabyte size of each photo now eats up enormous amounts of digital space, putting a strain on both the photo service's Web site and its shelves loaded with discs, he said.

With Vatican photographers snapping 1,000 to 3,000 high-definition, publication-quality pictures a day, he said, they need to start looking into "beefing up computer memory with giant hard drives."

Back in the early days of Giordani, "the pope wasn't photographed that much," he said. But today the number of papal activities has mushroomed, he said, "and every event with the pope is photographed every day."

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Feb. 28: "Rethinking God...After His Appearance" - Fr. Patrick Cahill, Ph.L., Catholic University of America; M.Div. and M.A. (Scriptural Theology), St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Apr. 3: "The Pope Speaks...Honoring Paul" - Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, will focus on Pope Benedict's encyclical "Spe Salvi" (Saved by Hope) and its connection to St. Paul's thought.

Apr. 24: "A Church Built on Gifts and Propelled by the Spirit" - Susan Brady, M.A. (Biblical Studies); 35 years experience teaching the Scriptures

May 15: "Greeting the Greeks; Hailing the Hellenists" - Watching Paul as he engaged in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Fr. Chris Schreck, theologian, scholar, guest speaker.

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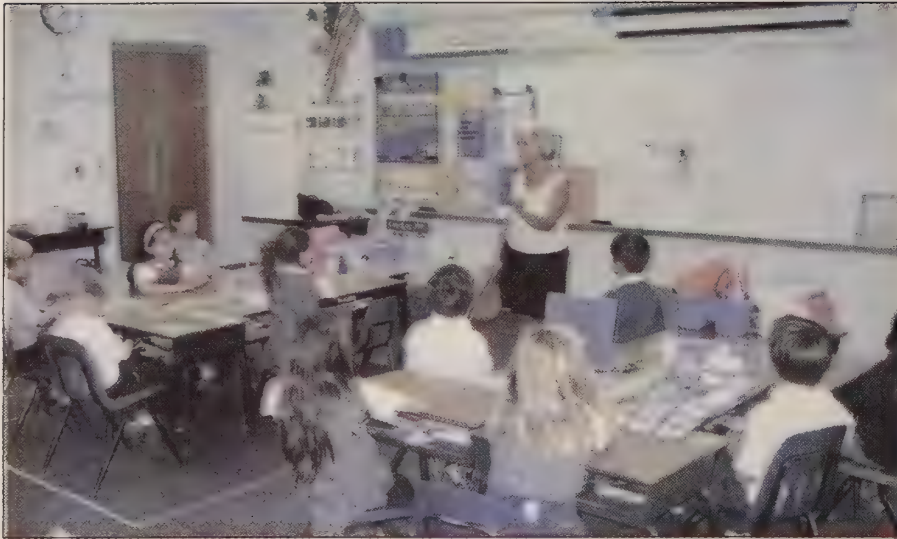
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## Talking trash



COURTESY PHOTO

Kaytee Bishop, who is known as "the trash lady" around Charlotte, speaks to second-graders at St. Gabriel School Oct. 11, 2007. Her nickname comes from her regular walks up and down Carmel Road picking up trash. Bishop, whose daughter-in-law is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church, spoke to students about how they can be good citizens and good stewards of God's earth by picking up trash around their own homes, school and community. The students sent her thank-you notes for modeling good citizenship and helping keep the community clean.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, WHICH THIS YEAR IS THEMED "CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LIGHT THE WAY," RUNS JAN. 27-FEB. 2. LOOK FOR COVERAGE IN THE FEB. 8 ISSUE OF THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD.

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**Catholic Schools Office**

601 E. Liberty St.

Savannah, GA 31401

ATTN: Aquinas Search Committee

Or E-mail: [schools@diosav.org](mailto:schools@diosav.org).

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2008.

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8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227

Or email to: [office@4sjn.org](mailto:office@4sjn.org) **Deadline for responses: February 4, 2008**

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**Payment:** For information, call (704) 370-3332.



# Student life savers



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem learn correct CPR procedures using mannequins provided by Red Cross instructors Jan. 11. The training is part of the students' health class curriculum and is considered another way they learn to meet the call of Catholic social teaching for helpful participation in their community.

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is an emergency medical procedure for a victim of cardiac arrest or, in some circumstances, respiratory arrest.

# A positive perspective



COURTESY PHOTO

First-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem wear "special" glasses in honor of the feast of St. Lucy of Syracuse Dec. 31. Like St. Lucy, the patron saint of the blind, the students were to use the glasses to see the good in all people. St. Lucy, whose name means "light," lived in Syracuse and lost her life in the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that, by the sixth century, the whole church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

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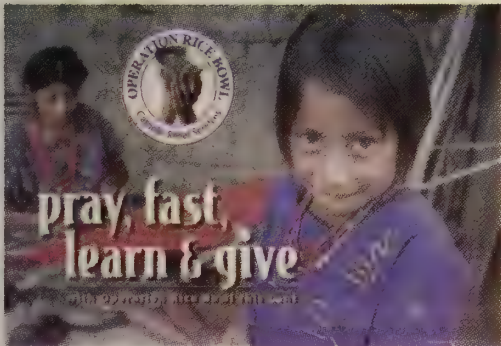
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Office of Justice & Peace  
Catholic Social Services  
Phone: 704-370-3225

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6. For 33 years, ORB has called participants to pray, fast, learn and give in solidarity with those members of our world community who face poverty, disease, and hunger. Participating parishes and Catholic entities should have already received their 2008 supply order. Should there be any questions about your order, or should you belong to a group that wishes to participate and still needs free ORB supplies, please call 1-800-222-0025. For more information about ORB, please go to <http://orb.crs.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

*We, the Roman Catholics of the USA, are fortunate that the compassionate arm of Catholic Relief Services reaches out on our behalf to help meet the basic needs of millions of people worldwide. I offer my encouragement and my support to the Lenten Operation Rice Bowl Program, and thank all those parishes, schools and campus ministries participating in this charitable program.*

*Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has called Lent a "privileged time of interior pilgrimage" toward our Lord Jesus Christ. As we ready ourselves for the joyous celebration of the Paschal Triduum, it is fitting that our prayers and acts of fasting and abstinence, and our participation in the sacramental life of the Church, be marked with outward expressions of charity to those who suffer from want of basic human needs.*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A look at poverty in America

*Programs help raise people above 'poverty line'*

To be in "poverty" in the United States refers to having an annual family income that is less than a "poverty line" set by the U.S. government.

Tangibly, poverty is a condition in which a person lacks the essentials for a minimum standard of sustenance and well being. The most recent poverty line for a family of four was established in 2006 as a yearly income of \$20,614.

This figure, however, really understates the average citizen's perception of what it means to be poor. When polled, a significant number of Americans considered \$40,000 a year to be the absolute minimum to sustain just the basic necessities of life for a family of four in today's economy — a very minimal existence.

Misconceptions around the issue of poverty are many. In its 2006 policy paper entitled "Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good," Catholic Charities USA cites some common errors.

One is that poverty happens to "poor people" who are somehow different from the mainstream "in terms of behaviors, characteristics or various other factors."

Hard as it is to believe, the fact is that almost half of all Americans will experience poverty for a year or more at some point in their lives by the time they reach age 60.

Another fallacy is that most of the poor live solely off of public assistance of some kind. The truth is that almost two out of three families living in poverty include one or more workers.

While more than 37 million people in the United States live below the poverty line, the saddest statistic is that one in every six of them are children. This statistic has serious implications for the children but its effect can be felt even more broadly on our society as a whole.

More often than not, poor children lack adequate health care and are badly nourished — factors that can lead to poor brain development, lackluster performance in school and a lifetime of missed opportunities.

In "Poverty in America," Catholic Charities USA states "poverty, in effect, condemns millions of children to a life that prevents them from reaching their full-human potential." Our society can ill afford, both morally and practically, to ignore such missed opportunities for these children.

Though the issues surrounding poverty are complex, the individuals caught in poverty can be helped. Through

### Guest Column

MARY JANE BRUTON  
GUEST COLUMNIST



its grants to grassroots organizations, the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) helps local groups throughout the Diocese of Charlotte to involve the poor in helping themselves.

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Asheville, partially funded by a local CCHD grant, is tackling the problems of poor children. In their after-school program, the church helps children ages 7 to 12 who are struggling academically.

During the school year, the church program stresses literacy and math instruction as well as homework completion. A nutritious snack and a supervised, safe environment provide these children an opportunity to overcome barriers and stake a rightful claim to academic success.

Nine volunteers from the population they serve staff the after-school program, building self-esteem in both students and mentors.

And this church is only one of 22 recipients of local CCHD grants in 2007. More than \$42,000 in CCHD funds is being put to use helping the poor and working poor implement programs designed to raise them above the poverty line and provide them with resources and tools to access a more hopeful future.

Poverty may be complex, but solutions don't have to be!

*Mary Jane Bruton is CCHD director in the Diocese of Charlotte.*

#### WANT MORE INFO?

It is not too late to apply for a local CCHD grant in the Diocese of Charlotte for the 2008 cycle.

For an application, instructions and a sample form, go to [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org) and click on "CCHD & CRS," or contact Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3234 or [mjbruton@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mjbruton@charlottediocese.org).

Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2008.

## As one human family

*A report on the CRS response to the 2004 tsunami*

The day after Christmas 2004, southern Asia was devastated by an Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 200,000 people, displaced many millions more and erased entire villages from the map.

In those countries hardest hit by the tsunami — India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand — emergency services were overwhelmed and the call went out for international assistance.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. bishops' international development and relief agency, has been present from the first days of the crisis and throughout the following three years.

Working in concert with local dioceses in the countries affected, CRS has contributed more than \$150 million to the tsunami relief, recovery and redevelopment efforts. It is important to note that this \$150 million has been distributed on our behalf — that is, on behalf of all members of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

With these funds, CRS brought emergency medicines, shelter and food to the shocked communities in the weeks after the tsunami. In addition, over the past three years, CRS has funded the construction of hundreds of schools and health clinics as well as tens of thousands of homes, and clean water and sanitation systems for hundreds of thousands of people. CRS has also funded the rebuilding and repairing of roads, bridges and piers across the region.

CRS also initiated more than 1,800 self-help micro-finance groups to offer loans to low-income individuals and families to expand jobs and access to education.

The unprecedented scope of CRS's relief and development efforts has been made possible thanks to the charitable response of U.S. Catholics.

In a statement marking the third anniversary of the tsunami, Ken Hackett, CRS president, stated the CRS Web site crashed temporarily due to the numbers of visitors eager to help CRS's tsunami disaster response efforts in the weeks after the disaster.

The Web glitch was fixed quickly and the CRS Web site began receiving more than \$1 million per day in donations (compared to prior averages of about \$1 million per year).

Donations also came to CRS the old fashioned way — by check. Close to half a million dollars was collected for the tsunami relief effort by churches and schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. (Funds were also raised by diocesan churches with connections to religious orders and Catholic organizations in the countries affected by the tsunami.)

The material support from the generous people of our diocese has been combined with countless prayers for the victims, a recognition that any successful

### Guest Column

JOSEPH PURELLO  
GUEST COLUMNIST



long-term recovery after a disaster also calls for spiritual healing.

Christians are a very small minority in the region hit by the tsunami. While CRS services are offered to people regardless of their religious beliefs, it is a fundamental CRS principle that the local Catholic Church, no matter its size or influence in the region served, is an equal partner with CRS in addressing crises.

The visibility of the Catholic Church's charitable efforts, and its outreach to people of all faiths, serves as a witness to our belief in Christ's mandate to love all men and women.

Such efforts also witness to a theme used in CRS program materials, which has appeared in Vatican statements — that we are all part of "one human family."

This past November, the Holy See joined the international community of nations at a meeting in Geneva on humanitarian aid. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, spoke about the rights of persons, families and communities who are victims of disasters and the need to respect these rights.

Victims, he said, "deserve our human closeness, psychological, moral and spiritual support, not as a condescending pity, but as an expression of our solidarity. We constitute together one human family."

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Jan. 1, 2008 World Day of Peace message, entitled "The Human Family, A Community of Peace," states that the peoples of the earth "are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one human family."

CRS continues its tsunami rebuilding efforts, its ongoing response to more recent disasters — such as last year's floods in southern Mexico and earthquake in Peru — and its broader mission of ameliorating poverty, disease and hunger.

If you are interested in learning more about CRS, visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org). For more details about the CRS tsunami recovery efforts in southern Asia, visit <http://tsunamiresponse.crs.org>.

*Joseph Purello is director of Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.*



# Abortion: America's holocaust

*Catholics must act to end torture, murder of unborn babies*

In 1933, many of the people living in Dachau knew that something evil had started to happen in a camp just outside their German town. But most were too afraid to ask questions.

They were even afraid to question their consciences, because their consciences might have compelled them to act. So instead, nearly everyone looked the other way and ignored the first permanent Nazi concentration camp in Germany.

By the end of World War II, more than 3,500 Jewish and political prisoners had become victims there of brutal medical experiments. And thousands more were executed or died of starvation.

Considering the graver risks associated with questioning such a ruthless regime, it's not hard to understand how fear paralyzed many Germans from engaging in nonviolent actions of resistance.

But in 2008 America, grave risks rarely befall those working to end a different holocaust. So instead of fearing torture and death, the vast majority of Catholic Americans simply allow apathy to prevent their involvement in serious efforts to end the holocaust of abortion.

This, however, is not at all understandable.

Considering Joan Andrews Bell — the famous pro-life activist — spent years in jail for participating in nonviolent rescues at abortion mills, efforts like praying in front of these killing centers, sidewalk counseling and writing letters

to legislators are really quite easy.

Yet, like most of the people living around the Dachau concentration camp, millions of U.S. Catholics choose to look the other way while unborn babies are tortured and murdered by abortion in their very own cities.

Every day believers in the God of life pass by these contemporary extermination camps, euphemistically called women's health clinics, without giving even a notice of concern.

Real concern leads to action. But sadly, large scale, ongoing Catholic action on behalf of the unborn is seriously lacking.

It was good that 100,000 people marched in the nation's capitol on Jan. 22 to protest against legal abortion. I have participated in more than 15 of these marches, but our participation in an annual demonstration in Washington or a state capitol is simply not enough.

Until the consciences of millions of American Catholics are aroused to the point of passionate action, 4,000 unborn babies will continue to be brutally murdered through legal abortion every day, and vulnerable women will be harmed — physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Surely the Creator is calling all of us to do everything possible to end this contempt for our smallest brothers and sisters. Embryonic stem-cell research and cloning have become added

## Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



threats to the unborn.

Deeply committed private and liturgical prayer is essential for ending all assaults on unborn human life. Regular respect-life homilies and a petition for the unborn in the prayer of the faithful at Mass should be a given.

Ongoing lobbying of our state and national political leaders is another essential. To learn about statewide legislation affecting the unborn, get on your state Catholic conference's mailing list.

And to make a difference on the national level, log on to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and click "life issues."

Other good organizations to contact are Priests for Life, Helpers of God's Precious Infants and Feminists for Life.

And finally, imagine if every day, at every abortion center nationwide, large numbers of Catholics were praying, peacefully demonstrating and conducting sidewalk counseling. What a powerful witness that would be!

More praying, challenging preaching, committed teaching, intensive lobbying and courageous witnessing are urgently needed.

There's no time to lose!

## For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



Why, asked Father Craig, did the uncle find the lens but the teenage boys didn't? "We didn't find it because we were looking for a lost contact," said the priest, "but my uncle was looking for a hundred dollars."

I'm not sure if the Gospel reading that day was the lost sheep or the lost drachma, but Father Craig made his point: We'll truly search and we'll not stop searching for what we really want to find, for what truly holds value for us.

I see that story as a metaphor for the Lenten journey that lies ahead. I can approach it casually, with the self-help kind of resolution that might net me a five-pound weight loss.

I can show up at a few extra Masses or the weekly Stations of the Cross.

But am I doing these things because I'm on a quest for the central value of my life?

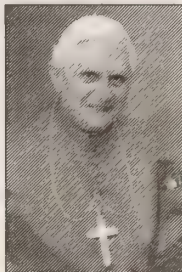
What we are searching for motivates how hard we search, how long we stay on our hands and knees until we find it.

The question to ask before Ash Wednesday: What am I looking for, and how will I try to find it?

# Pope says in praying for unity Christians identify cost of divisions

## The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In praying for Christian unity, those who follow Jesus recognize their divisions prevent others from believing in the Gospel message of peace, love and salvation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"In common prayer, Christian communities place themselves together before the Lord and, becoming aware of the contradictions arising from their divisions, they demonstrate their desire to obey his will, relying on his almighty assistance," the pope said Jan. 23 at his weekly general audience.

As is customary during the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope dedicated his entire audience talk to ecumenism.

The pope said that common prayer is not a strategy for publicizing the need for Christian unity, "but is an expression of the faith that unites all the disciples of Christ," who had prayed that his followers would be one.

Pope Benedict ended his talk by praying, "May the Virgin Mary, mother of the church, obtain for all the children of her divine Son the possibility of living in peace and mutual love so as to give a convincing witness of reconciliation to the world and make the face of God, the face of Christ, accessible."

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, Christians throughout the world celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, initiated by Father Paul Wattson, founder of the Society of the Atonement.

The theme chosen for this year is St. Paul's exhortation to the Thessalonians to "pray always" (1 Thess 5:17). According to the Second Vatican Council, prayer and holiness of life are "the soul of the whole ecumenical movement" ("Unitatis Redintegratio," 8).

When Christians from various communities come together to pray in common, they acknowledge that unity cannot be achieved by human strength alone. Only by relying on God's grace can they live according to Jesus's prayer that "they may all be one" (Jn 17:20-21).

I therefore invite all Christians to render fitting thanks to Almighty God for the progress achieved thus far along the path of ecumenism, and to persevere as they strive toward unity so that "the world may believe" (Jn 17:21) that Jesus is the only Son sent by the Father.

# The question to ask before Ash Wednesday

*Catholics must discern what they seek, how to find it*

Father Craig was the pastor at my parish a few years ago, but I still remember him well for the focused little sermons he gave.

His homilies were among the shortest and best I've ever heard. He didn't waste time in repetition or pious verbiage. He used simple, declarative sentences that got right to the point.

And the point was always a good and true one — something I'd often take home and chew on during the week. How many homilies can you honestly say that about?

There's one homily Father Craig gave that I still remember and think about now and then. As Lent approaches, it nags at me with the fundamental question: What am I looking for?

Father Craig's sermons would always begin with a personal vignette, usually humorous, sometimes more sobering. Once he told us that his grandfather was hanging on during a terminal illness, waiting for Father Craig, on loan to us from a Midwestern diocese, to come home.

But the homily I remember best began with Father Craig telling us about the day he and his cousin were out playing basketball. They were teenagers then, and in the course of their game one of the cousin's contact lenses was

knocked out of his eye.

Remember the old days of "hard" contact lenses? If you're old enough to remember, you know they were not disposable.

You bought a pair in the hopes it would serve you for a year or two, just like a pair of glasses, because a replacement would set you back quite a few bucks. Some people even took out contact lens insurance.

I remember searching the bathroom vinyl for my own lens. Once I even retrieved one from the bathroom drain with a straw covered in nylon and a vacuum hose. Soccer games were even halted while both teams searched for one kid's fallen lens.

So when the cousin's contact fell out, Father Craig's basketball stopped bouncing and both boys were on the ground, carefully maneuvering their hands and knees as they searched for the tiny lens. At last they gave up and went in the house, where they got something to drink and told Father Craig's uncle what happened.

"My uncle immediately went outside and started to look for that lens," said Father Craig, "and he kept looking and looking." And he didn't stop looking until, remarkably, he found the lens.





CNS PHOTO BY MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS

A Palestinian woman sits next to her sick daughter at al-Nasser hospital for children in Gaza Jan. 21. Large parts of the Gaza Strip plunged into darkness when its main power plant shut down after Israel blocked fuel supplies and closed the border to the Hamas-run territory.

## Suffering in the dark

*Lack of fuel in Gaza forces teachers to adjust to help hungry pupils*

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Shatha Halu, a first-grader at Holy Family School in Gaza City, put on his backpack and climbed down the 10 flights of stairs in his building on the way to school.

At the bottom of the stairs he turned to his mother, who had made the long trek down with him and, looking up the steps, asked her how he would be able to climb all the way back up after school with his heavy bag.

"It is a very bad situation," said Msgr. Manuel Musallam, pastor of Holy Family Church, who recounted the story in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service Jan. 21. "This lack of

electricity is stopping civilization, stopping life in Gaza."

Israel closed the border to the Gaza Strip and temporarily banned imports, including the fuel necessary to run Gaza's power plant, following a sharp increase in the number of rockets Palestinian militants fired into Israeli border towns. Gaza is controlled by the militant Islamic group Hamas.

Following an international outcry, on Jan. 22 Israel allowed enough fuel for electricity for two days to be pumped into the Gaza Strip. It also delivered cooking gas, medicine and food.

Israel promised enough total fuel delivery over three days to allow the Gazan power plant to run for a week, but said a ban on gasoline would continue.

On Jan. 23, tens of thousands of Palestinians flooded into Egypt to buy goods after militants blew up most of a seven-mile border wall at the Rafah border crossing.

Msgr. Musallam said that while Holy Family School has a generator for its electrical needs, it would soon run out of the gasoline needed to run it. The school and the church can function without electricity, he said, but the hospitals were in dire need of fuel to run their generators.

He said he donated his last fuel to Shifa Hospital, which was requesting donations so it could treat patients. At least five people died in Gaza hospitals due to the lack of electricity.

"We can manage with not using our computers, but in the hospitals the sick people need the electricity to survive," said Msgr. Musallam.

He said many people had been unable to bathe for nearly a week, since electricity is needed to pump the water. Some teachers asked to bathe at the convent, since the church has its own generator. Parents asked that the school be closed because they were embarrassed to send their unbathed children to school. However, the priest said he would keep the school open because "we must challenge the situation."

He added that when the children are together at school they can be distracted from the difficult situation for a few hours.

Israel provides about 60 percent of Gaza's electricity, and another 5 percent is provided by Egypt. The power outage mainly affected Gaza City.

Sahar Shaat, a project officer at the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services Gaza office, said she had been studying for her master's exams by candlelight.

"We are in winter and it is very cold, and we are without heaters," she said.

She said there was still gas for cooking, and meat and chicken were available, but people were worried about food running out. Food cannot be kept in refrigerators because it will spoil without electricity, she noted.

"There is a shortage of everything. If we find something it costs double" the normal price, she said, noting that employees of nongovernmental and humanitarian organizations felt helpless in the face of the growing shortages.

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SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — When Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass in New York's Yankee Stadium in April, a contingent of the faithful from western North Carolina will be on hand.

The Diocese of Charlotte has received an allotment of tickets for the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium April 20, part of his upcoming U.S. visit April 15-20. He will be in Washington April 15-17, and will be in New York

See TICKETS, page 7

## 'Respecting moral boundaries'

*Bush praised for stand  
on cloning, 'ethical'  
stem-cell research*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — U.S. pro-life leaders praised President George W. Bush's support for a ban on human cloning and for increased funding for "ethical medical research" on stem cells that

See BUSH, page 6

## DSA: A way to put works of mercy into action

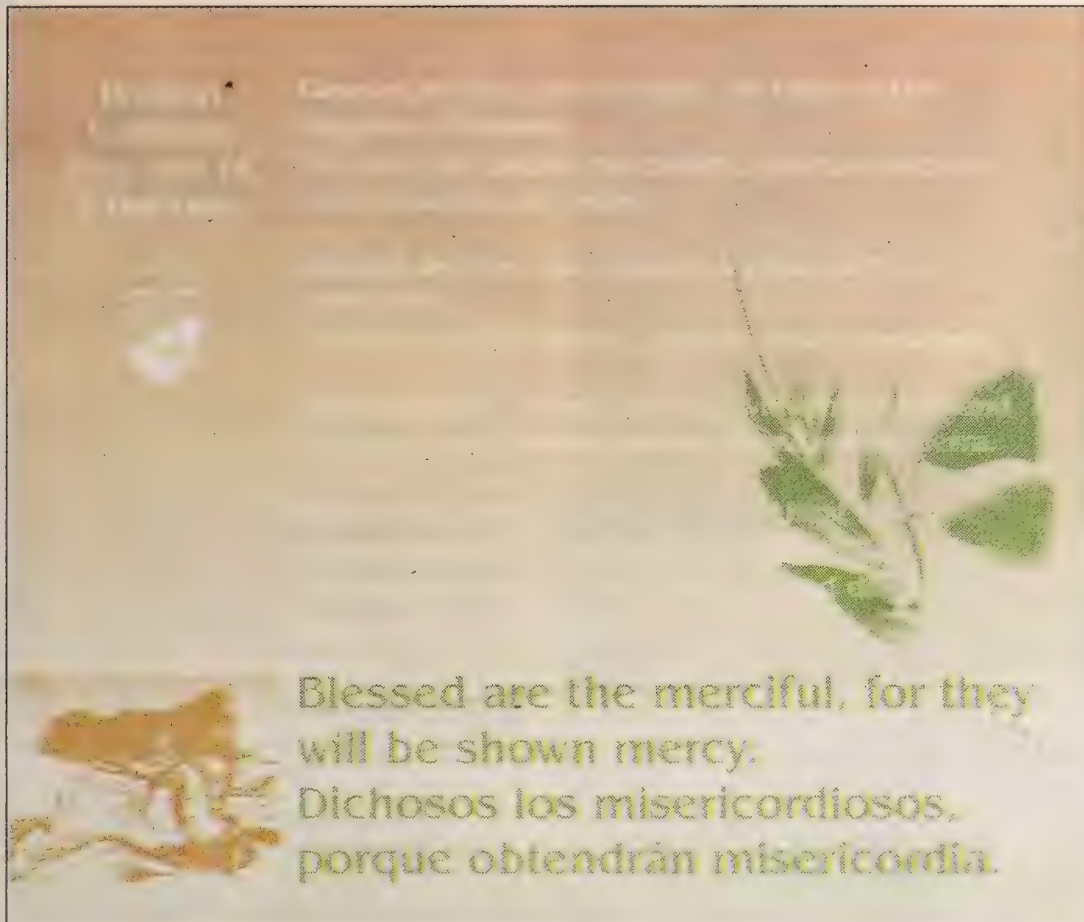


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

*Diocesan Support  
Appeal funds 30  
ministries, 50 programs*

BY BARBARA GADDY  
EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTOR

CHARLOTTE — Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

"We are called to live this beatitude through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis in a February letter to Catholics announcing the 2008 Diocesan Support Appeal.

"There are many Catholics here in our diocese living these works of mercy every day. Their ministries are funded in part through the Diocesan Support Appeal," he said.

"Your contribution to the 2008 DSA is a way that you can put the works of mercy into action in a very real way," said the bishop.

This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 2 through March 9. Its goal of \$4,440,000 provides

Pictured is the poster for the 2008 Diocesan Support Appeal, which runs Feb. 2-March 9.

See DSA, page 9

## Building for the future

*Bishop Jugis dedicates cathedral's  
Family Life Center*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — There's a little more room now at the cathedral in Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the new Family Life Center at St. Patrick Cathedral Jan. 26.

Concelebrating the Mass with the bishop were Bishop Emeritus William G.

Curlin; Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Father Paul Gary, rector; Father Robert Conway, parochial vicar; and Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson of Belmont Abbey.

Assisting at the Mass was Deacon Carlos Medina, permanent deacon.

See DEDICATION, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and others cut the ribbon for the new Family Life Center at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Jan. 26. Pictured (from left): Father Paul Gary, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, Deacon Carlos Medina, Bishop Jugis, Abbot Placid Solari, Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson and Father Robert Conway.



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FOOTWORK AND FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY JAVIER GARCIA, INTERNATIONAL SPORTS IMAGES

Clint Dempsey, U.S. Soccer's Male Athlete of 2007, told a London newspaper he is a devout Catholic who dedicates every goal he scores to a sister who died in her mid-teens. Dempsey, a striker for the Fulham Football Club in London, is pictured at a Barclays Premier League match at Craven Cottage in London Jan. 1.

## U.S. soccer star Clint Dempsey says faith helped him during tragedies

LONDON (CNS) — Clint Dempsey, U.S. Soccer's Male Athlete of 2007, told a London newspaper he is a devout Catholic who dedicates every goal he scores to a sister who died in her mid-teens.

Dempsey, 24, a striker for the Fulham Football Club in London, said his faith has sustained him through a series of tragedies.

The worst of these, he told *The Sun*, a London-based daily newspaper, was the sudden death of his sister, Jennifer, at the age of just 16.

Jennifer was on her way to becoming a seeded tennis player when she died of a brain aneurysm.

"When we were young, Jennifer would draw a picture of her being a tennis player and sign an autograph," he said Jan. 19.

"I would draw a picture of me being a professional soccer player and sign an autograph," he said. "These were our dreams."

He continued: "The strange thing was that even when we were younger she said to me, 'If I ever die, I will help you get the ball in the net.' And that's why I look up to the sky now whenever I score."

"I now hope she is proud of me,"

he added.

The former New England Revolution star also recounted how he lost a close friend in a car accident and how he was saddened by the February 2006 shooting of Houston rapper Big Hawk, with whom he had hoped to record a track before the World Cup finals in Germany in June the same year.

"I'll never let this or other things get me down," he added. "I have family, my friends and my faith. Whatever happens, it's meant to be."

One of five children, Dempsey, who has Irish ancestry, grew up in his grandmother's trailer in the East Texas town of Nacogdoches.

Between 2004 and 2007 he scored 25 goals in 71 appearances for the New England Revolution before moving to England in a record \$4 million transfer deal, making his debut for Fulham Jan. 20, 2007.

He is now the leading goal scorer at the Premier League club, which also employs fellow U.S. soccer stars Brian McBride, Carlos Bocanegra and Kasey Keller.

Dempsey played his first match for the U.S. national team against Jamaica in 2004. He has since scored nine times in 34 appearances.

## Bolivian church aids families affected by floods, landslides

LA PAZ, Bolivia (CNS) — Bolivia's Catholic Church is delivering humanitarian aid to some of the more than 30,000 families affected by flooding and landslides in heavy rains that have lashed the country since late December.

The heavy rains have been attributed to La Nina, a cold current that often follows the warm El Nino current in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America.

"Bolivia is in a difficult situation because of La Nina," said Hugo Perez, national director of the emergency department of Caritas, the church's humanitarian aid and development organization.

Perez said nearly 40 people have been reported killed in the flooding, and more than 30,000 families lost their homes or suffered serious damage. Crop and livestock losses are still unknown, although some news reports have put the figure at about \$30 million.

Although January is part of Bolivia's rainy season, the entire country has been hit by downpours that are heavier than normal. Hardest hit is the central department of Cochabamba, where about 20,000 families have been affected, communities have been cut off by rising streams and rivers, and roads have been destroyed.

"Many people are in shelters and it is still raining heavily," Perez told Catholic News Service. "It keeps raining, and we keep getting word of new communities that have been cut off."

Weather forecasts indicate that heavy rains will continue in February and March, he said.

Caritas is providing immediate humanitarian aid through its network of diocesan offices and parish teams, coordinating with government civil defense officials. Once the floodwaters recede, however, the work of reconstruction must begin.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, will have a *vigil Mass, rosary and Benediction* for the unborn Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host "*Facing the Dilemma: An Educational Forum to Uncover the Legal and Moral Issues at the Center of the Immigration Debate*." Speakers will address health care, public safety, education and employment, with an emphasis on how these matters relate to human dignity. The forum will take place 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the New Life Center. For more information, contact Terri Jarina at [terrijarina@juno.com](mailto:terrijarina@juno.com). Free and open to the public.

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convoking 2008-09 as a special Pauline year marking the 2000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth, a *Pauline Symposium* featuring talks by various speakers will be held in the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Next is Feb. 28,

"Rethinking God After His Appearance" by Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar. Other topics/dates: Apr. 3, "The Pope Speaks: Honoring Paul" by Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor; Apr. 24, "A Church Built on Gifts and Propelled by the Spirit," by Susan Brady, Scripture studies; May 15, "Greeting the Greeks, Hailing the Hellenists" by Father Chris Schreck, theologian/scholar

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover presents "*The History of the Catholic Church*" Saturdays during Lent (Feb. 9, 16, 23; March 1, 8) 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Topics include the early church, the church of the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation, the Council of Trent and Vatican II highlights. No admission. To register, contact Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — As part of a *40 Days for Life pro-life campaign* Feb. 6-March 16, pro-life Catholics are encouraged to take part in a peaceful vigil outside the Family Reproductive Health clinic, 700 E. Hebron St. For more information, contact Andrea Hines at (704) 996-4597 or [hinesal@aol.com](mailto:hinesal@aol.com), Bethany Witz at (704) 492-8465 or [bethanywitz@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanywitz@hotmail.com), or visit [www.charlottetivigil.com](http://www.charlottetivigil.com).

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

DENVER — The *Blanketeers* of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a non-profit organization. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

LINCOLNTON — A *forty-hour devotion* will be held Feb. 1-3 at St. Dorothy Church, 148 St. Dorothy's Ln, in preparation for the parish's parochial feast day. All are invited for eucharistic adoration during the 40 hours of prayer. For more information, call (704) 735-5575 or visit [www.stdorothy.org](http://www.stdorothy.org).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Father Peter West of Priests for

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican courts must uphold universal standards of justice, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While marriage tribunals and other church courts must take into account the concrete situation of the individuals who come before them, Vatican appeals courts must uphold universal standards of justice, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope met Jan. 26 with members of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, a Vatican court that deals mainly with appeals in marriage annulment cases.

The court exists to service justice, he said.

"Because canonical processes regard the juridical aspects of the goods of salvation or other temporal goods that serve the mission of the church," he said, the church needs to count on uniformity "in the essential criteria for justice" and reasonable explanations for the judgments given.

Local tribunals and the Vatican appeals courts are not in opposition to

one another, the pope said. The local tribunals play an indispensable role in making justice accessible to Catholics and in "investigating and resolving cases in their concreteness, which is sometimes tied to the culture and mentality" of the local population.

However, he said, "all the sentences must always be founded on common principles and norms of justice."

What is at stake, the pope said, is unity in the universal church.

"In the church, precisely because of its universality and because of the diversity of juridical cultures in which it is called to work, there always is the risk of forming ... a 'local jurisprudence' that is increasingly distant from the common interpretation of the positive laws and even the doctrine of the church on matrimony," Pope Benedict said.

The pope ended his speech by encouraging members of the Roman Rota to pray for the court each day.

## Church law frees people to follow Christ, pope tells canonists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Far from being a list of restrictions, church law frees people to follow Christ, Pope Benedict XVI told participants in a congress on canon law.

The church recognizes that the nature and function of its laws are to pursue its aim of achieving the salvation of people's souls, he said.

Therefore, the pope said, it is important "that such laws be loved and observed by all the faithful. Church law is, first of all, 'lex libertatis' law that makes us free to follow Jesus."

The pope made his remarks during a Jan. 25 audience with some 700 participants in an international congress on canon law. The congress, organized by the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, marked the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the new Code of Canon Law in 1983.

The pope said that if canon law is to be able to fulfill "this precious

service" of salvation, it must be "linked to the theological foundations that give it reasonableness and are the essential claim of ecclesial legitimacy."

But church law must also be flexible and "adhere to the changeable circumstances of the historical experiences of the people of God," he said.

In order for canon law to remain in harmony with the church's other laws, outdated norms must be abrogated, articles in need of correction must be modified, unclear norms must be reinterpreted in the light of the church's living magisterium, and any gaps in the law must be filled, the pope said.

Speaking to journalists Jan. 22, Archbishop Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, said the congress would "identify certain points" in the Code of Canon Law in need of revision or new norms.

Life will lead a *pro-life* Lenten mission at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Feb. 9-13, and will speak at weekend Masses: 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9; 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," the annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service sponsored by Church Women United (which includes women from St. Aloysius, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Catholic churches), will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 7, at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 629 8th St. NE. The service will include music and a guest speaker. To attend or for more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

FRANKLIN — *The Respect for Life* group meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27, at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Franciscan Father Bill Robinson (Roman Catholic) speaks Feb. 13. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Fraternity and Sisterhood*" Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Jude DeAngelo speaks on "*The Joys of the Sacrament of Reconciliation*," the first in a series of workshops to assist in a better understanding and practice of Catholicism, 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Flight of peace



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI watches a dove fly from his apartment window at the end of the Angelus prayer Jan. 27 at the Vatican. With two Italian children by his side, the pope released two white doves as a symbol of peace.

## Sideline behavior: Complaints force Clericus Cup fans to tone it down

ROME (CNS) — Complaints of excessive noise levels by sleepy residents have forced fans of a priestly soccer series to try to tone it down during weekend matches.

Fans are now banned from using megaphones, drums, tambourines and boomboxes to cheer on their favorite teams, said organizers of the Clericus Cup tournament.

Now in its second season, the popular Clericus Cup kicked off at the end of 2007 with 16 teams of seminarians and priests studying in Rome vying for the 2008 championship title.

The games are played on two hilltop fields overlooking St. Peter's Basilica, at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 2:30 and 3:45 p.m. Sundays — a time many Romans lie down for an afternoon siesta

after a heavy meal.

In fact, residents in the vicinity of the soccer fields had complained that any ruckus at those hours was a disturbance of the peace, said a Jan. 22 press release from tournament organizers.

The code of silence was to go into effect Jan. 26. However, the tourney's 2007 champions, the Neocatechumenal Way's Redemptoris Mater, said team members would continue to sing their college anthem, "Alma Redemptoris Mater," before each game.

Last year's champions, nicknamed "Red Mat," played the Pontifical North American College Jan. 26. The North American team, Red Mat and Rome's Sedes Sapientiae ecclesial college were tied for the lead in their division with six points each.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 2 — 10:30 a.m.

Mass of solemn profession

Basilica of Mary, Help of Christians, Belmont

Feb. 9 — 7:15 a.m.

Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Feb. 10 — 2 p.m.

Rite of Election

St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler

Feb. 16 — 1 p.m.

Rite of Election

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte



# Leading the way

## In-service teaches catechists leadership skills

HICKORY — Parish catechetical leaders from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently learned about being successful leaders.

Forty-three parish catechetical leaders attended a leadership skills presentation by Dr. Kathy Kleinlein, part of an in-service training day held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Jan. 24.

"A good heart and a strong faith are two basic requirements for catechetical leaders," read the program description. "But these aren't enough to run a truly successful parish program."

Dealing with people, budgets and developing catechists are some of the challenging opportunities catechetical leaders must handle effectively.

"Leadership skills are important in the Catholic Church because a leader is a person we choose to follow to a place we would not go by ourselves, because that place is either too risky, too unfamiliar, too scary, too uninspiring, too alienating or too confusing," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the diocese.

Kleinlein, director of catechetical ministry for the Diocese of Venice, Fla., and former Fortune 500 training and development executive, identified 10 items necessary for a leader's effectiveness.

They included qualifications, management style, utilizing technology and a variety of skills, including planning, organizing, budgeting, motivation and team building.

"Leadership skills are necessary for parish catechetical leaders, since one of the chief aims of catechesis — as quoted in the General Directory for Catechesis No. 62 — is conversion and the 'new evangelization,'" said Theresa Prymuszewski, western regional coordinator of faith formation.

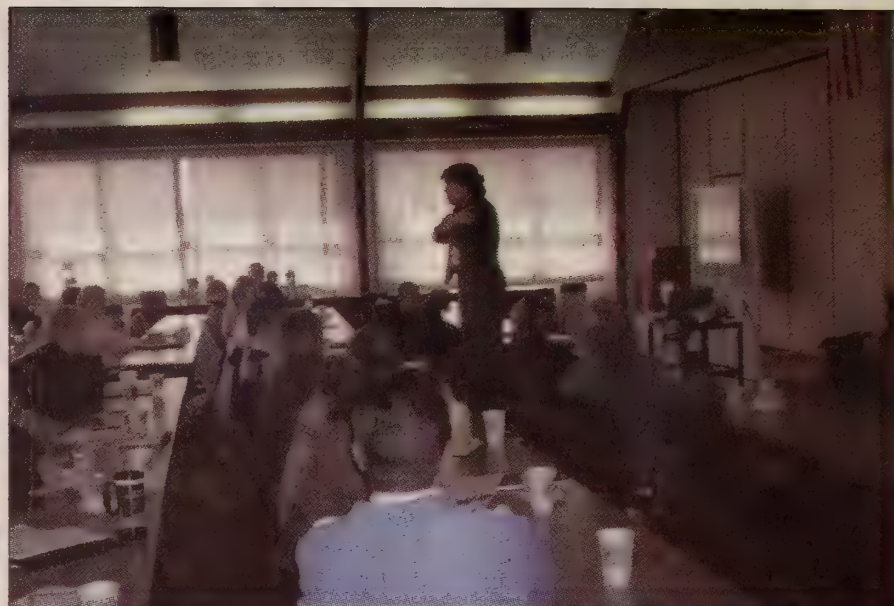
"The parish catechetical leaders need to provide the catechists they serve with opportunities for conversion ... to put people not only in touch but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ," said Prymuszewski.

Leadership skills facilitate that ongoing conversion, she said, for the leaders themselves, who then witness conversion to their catechists and others in the parishes they serve.

"The in-service provided an impetus for catechetical leaders to further their own ongoing professional, spiritual and personal development," said Prymuszewski.

Many participants said they were motivated to become better leaders.

"It was very inspiring," said Prymuszewski.



COURTESY PHOTO BY THERESA PRYMUŠEWSKI

(Above right) Kathy Kleinlein speaks to parish catechetical leaders during an in-service workshop at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Jan. 24.

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## BELMONT ABBEY'S LOURDES GROTTO: AN INSPIRING PLACE TO HONOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY'S APPEARANCES AT LOURDES.

For over a century, the Abbey's Lourdes Grotto has been a special place of prayer and pilgrimage for Catholics in the Carolinas and beyond. It was blessed and dedicated on Ascension Thursday, May 7, 1891 by Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid to commemorate the remarkable healing of a young Abbey priest who was dying of typhoid fever, a healing considered to be due to the intercession of Our Lady.

This is a particularly blessed time to visit the Grotto, because this year the Holy Father is granting a plenary indulgence for those who honor the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearances in Lourdes by making a pilgrimage to worthy sites dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes



such as this.

(You may receive the indulgence from February 2 through February 11 by fulfilling the normal requirements set by the Church, including going to confession within a reasonably short period of time, receiving the Eucharist and praying for the intentions of the pope, all in a spirit of total detachment from the attraction of sin.)

The Grotto is open year-round to allow ready use of its prayerful setting, its commemoration of God's benevolence, its special environment for honoring the Mother of God, and its particular dedication to supplication for priestly and religious vocations.

May God richly shower you with blessings during this very special time.

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## FROM THE COVER

# Bishop Jugis dedicates cathedral's Family Life Center

DEDICATION, from page 1

As a boy, Father Neilson had served as an altar server during the cathedral's dedication in 1939 and wanted to be a part of the Family Life Center's dedication.

Hundreds of parishioners watched as he joined the bishops, abbot, priests and deacon in a ribbon cutting ceremony before heading inside the new facility for a reception.

"It was a joy to see the facility's great hall filled with people, young and old, talking and laughing," said Patti Farmer, parish building and grounds committee chairwoman.

"It was a joy to finally see it being used for what it was built for. That was the payoff for me," she said.

The center provides much-needed space for meetings, receptions, workshops and parish ministries, things the 1930s-era cathedral could not accommodate.

"It's wonderful to now have a place for gatherings, to offer workshops and ministries," said Farmer. "It's been a long time coming."

Initial plans for the 14,500-square-foot facility began in 1991, and the capital building campaign kicked off in 2005. The groundbreaking was June 3, 2006.

Construction of the \$3.4 million facility met with some setbacks, delaying the original dedication date, but the Family Life Center was eventually completed within less than 1 percent of its original budget.

"This is a huge success by any standard," said Jim Whitaker, parish council chairman.

Whitaker, a licensed architect and construction executive, utilized his professional experience in working with the architect, contractors and consultants.

"Without reservation, I am proud to have been part of this extraordinary effort of people committed to a common good," he said.

Assisting with the project was a large committee of parishioners with varying expertise, organized by Farmer.

"Mrs. Farmer's tireless energy provided the enthusiasm that kept an all-volunteer group on track and moving forward," said Whitaker. "The hundreds of volunteer hours spent were only exceeded by the seemingly thousands of tasks accomplished."

"The Christian spirit and camaraderie were infectious," he said.

The design of the two-and-a-half-story facility reflects the existing architecture of the cathedral, rectory and school.

"The cathedral was dedicated in 1939 and is a long-time Dilworth landmark," said Whitaker. "The Family



COURTESY PHOTO

The new Family Life Center, a 14,500-square-foot facility at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Jan. 26.

Life Center was designed to fit in with the campus architecture, not compete with the cathedral."

The center features a great hall capable of seating 200 people for receptions or banquets, a catering kitchen, meeting rooms, a counseling room, a bride's room, a youth room and a nursery.

The choir room is acoustically designed to enhance the music. The library features a selection of leather-bound books donated by Father Gary.

"The entire building was fitted with new fixtures, furnishings and equipment planned, procured and installed by the parish building and grounds committee," said Whitaker.

Specialty interior paint details match those inside the cathedral, and light fixtures were selected to complement existing features in the cathedral, he said.

"Even the nursery has custom wall paint, making an inviting, secure and festive space," said Whitaker.

Bishop Jugis noted the significance of the new Family Life Center in his homily, indicating the ministries conducted in the new building are to be an extension of the most important building on campus — the cathedral.

"The Family Life Center will help the parish become a closer community while allowing us to grow," said Farmer.

"The parishioners were looking for a way to get together and do great things together — that's the purpose of the Family Life Center," said Father Gary.

"It will help revitalize the parish and allow us to do things we could not do in the past," he said.

"The parish will be well served by the building for generations to come," said Whitaker.



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Office of Justice and Peace  
Catholic Social Services  
Phone: 704-370-3225

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) is the official Lenten Program of Catholic Relief Services. For 33 years, ORB has called participants to pray with their families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with those who hunger, learn about our global CRS community and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

The theme of this year's ORB, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6, is "One Light, One Journey, One Human Family."

\*\*\*\*\*

Parishes and schools participating in ORB will distribute ORB items (or will post notices stating where such items can be picked up) prior to or on Ash Wednesday. Catholic entities still wishing to order 2008 ORB Lenten materials may do so by calling 1-800-222-0025, however, materials will arrive after February 6. Learn More about Operation Rice Bowl at <http://orb.crs.org/>.



*Jesus identifies himself with those in need, with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison. 'As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40). Love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God. (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, #15)*



# Bush praised for stand on cloning, stem-cell research

BUSH, from page 1

does not involve destroying human embryos.

Bush commented on both in addressing "matters of science and life" in his seventh and final State of the Union address Jan. 28.

"We certainly welcome the president's emphasis on increased funding for ethical stem-cell research, and we agree that passage of a ban on human cloning is long overdue," Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, told Catholic News Service Jan. 29.

An official with the National Right to Life Committee in a Jan. 28 statement also praised Bush's stand on cloning and his "continued commitment" to funding research that does not destroy life.

On the issue of stem-cell research, Bush said, "We must trust in the innovative spirit of medical researchers and empower them to discover new treatments while respecting moral boundaries."

He referred to the "landmark achievement" announced late last year of scientists discovering a technique that successfully turns adult skin cells into the equivalent of human embryonic stem cells without using an actual embryo.

"This breakthrough has the potential to move us beyond the divisive debates of the past by extending the frontiers of medicine without the destruction of human life. So we are expanding funding for this type of ethical medical research," Bush said.

"And as we explore promising avenues of research, we must also ensure that all life is treated with the dignity

"President Bush's unwavering policy has been vindicated ...."

— Darla St. Martin

it deserves. So I call on the Congress to pass legislation that bans unethical practices such as the buying, selling, patenting or cloning of human life," he said.

Doerflinger said bipartisan legislation to ban cloning for any purpose is pending in both the House and Senate.

In the House the measure is co-sponsored by Reps. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., and Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and in the Senate by Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

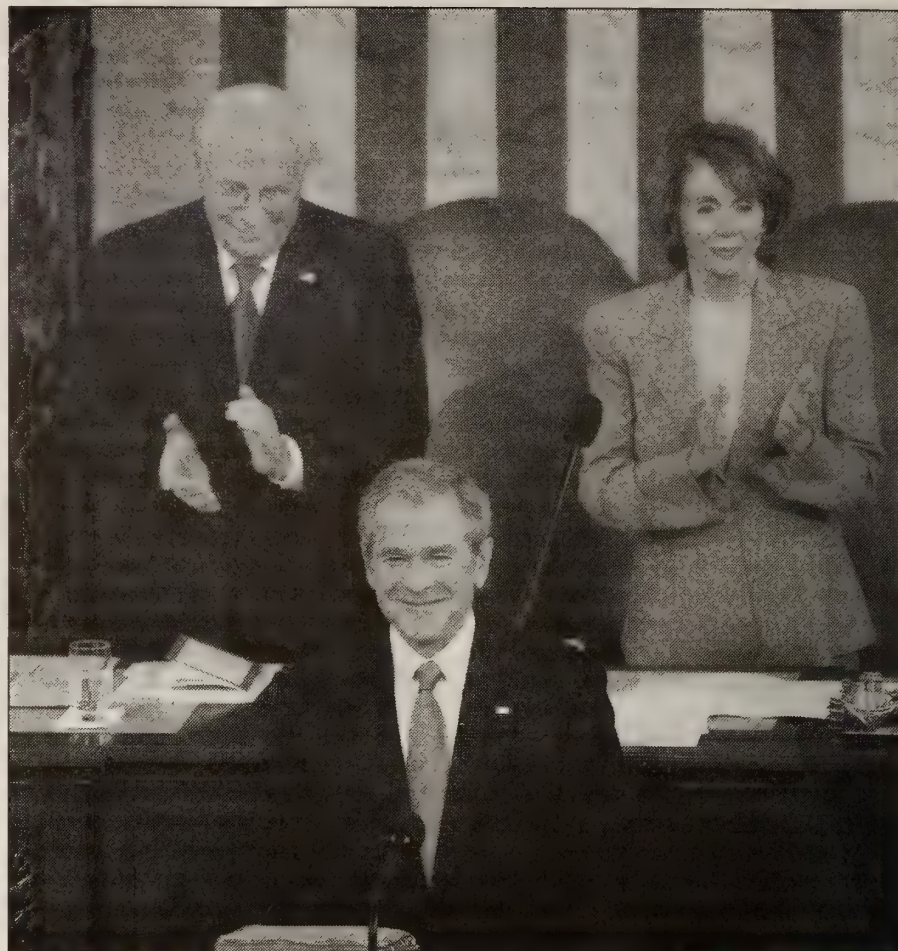
Doerflinger said the pro-life office supports the bills.

"We've been having meetings, beginning with House offices, urging more members to co-sponsor" the measures, he said, "and will continue to work" on getting support for them.

"In tonight's State of the Union address, President Bush emphasized the importance of his policy which supports stem-cell research to find treatments and cures for disease, so long as such research does not require harming or killing humans," said Darla St. Martin, co-executive director of National Right to Life.

"President Bush's unwavering policy has been vindicated as researchers have discovered new, ethical sources for stem cells that show great promise," she said.

St. Martin added that pro-life lawmakers and the Bush administration have stopped those in Congress who favor legislation that "would pave the way for cloned human embryo farms."



CNS PHOTO BY JIM YOUNG, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush delivers his last State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress as Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., applaud at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Jan. 28. In his speech the president called for funds for "ethical" stem-cell research that does not involve destroying human embryos.

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OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Area Director: Jacqueline Crombie (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Area Director: Diane Bullard (336) 727-0705

Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577

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# Tickets to papal Mass in N.Y. available on diocesan Web site

TICKETS, from page 1

April 18-20.

While in Washington, the pope will celebrate Mass at Nationals Park, which will seat up to 45,000 people for the event. Yankee Stadium holds 65,000 people.

Approximately 100 tickets to the papal Mass in New York will be available to Catholics and other residents of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte acknowledged with gratitude the receipt of the tickets from the Archdiocese of New York, which is hosting a portion of Pope Benedict's first visit to the United States.

Catholics from three archdioceses that share with the Archdiocese of New York the distinction of marking their 200th anniversaries this year will get special treatment at the Yankee Stadium Mass.

The archdioceses of Boston, Philadelphia and Louisville, Ky., will be honored at the Mass, along with the nation's first diocese, the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The Diocese of Charlotte will distribute its tickets via a random drawing of ticket applications submitted through the diocesan Web site.

For security reasons, the tickets are non-transferable. Each applicant must provide his or her address and date of birth and will be required to show a photo ID to gain admission to the papal Mass.

For those reasons, only those persons who can commit to making the trip to New York in April should apply. Applicants will be allowed to request

one or two tickets.

Applications must be made by midnight on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Persons chosen to receive tickets will be notified by e-mail and must confirm they will be able to utilize the tickets by midnight on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Applications unconfirmed by that deadline will be distributed to other applicants.

Few details are available about ticket distribution for Pope Benedict's only event open to the public in Washington, the Mass at Nationals Park.

"The Archdiocese of Washington has received requests for thousands of tickets to the planned Mass at the Nationals stadium from hundreds of youth groups, parishes and individuals around the United States," said the archdiocesan Web site.

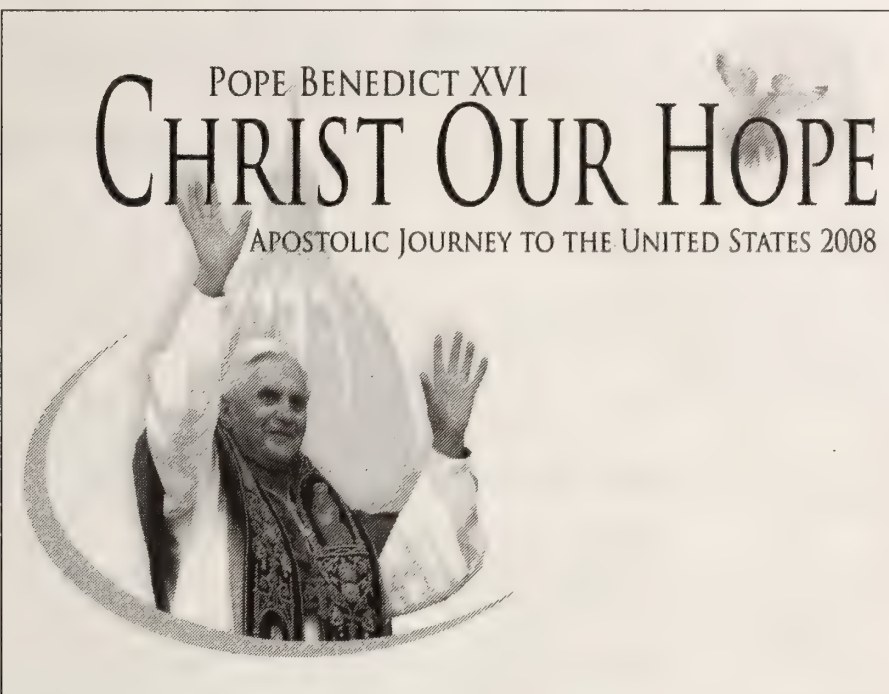
"In the past, the custom for major events has been to distribute tickets primarily through our parishes, dioceses and organizations with whom we collaborate in the pastoral care of the local church," it added.

The new home of the Washington Nationals baseball team is designed to hold 41,222 people but organizers found that, by locating the altar in center field rather than at second base as originally planned, an additional 4,000 people could be accommodated.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.*

## WANT TO APPLY?

To apply for tickets to the N.Y. papal Mass, go online at [www.charlottediocese.org/tickets](http://www.charlottediocese.org/tickets).



CNS PHOTO BY USCCB

This is the logo for Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States April 15-20. "Christ Our Hope" is the theme of the visit and reflects the pope's encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), issued in late 2007 as an invitation for people to personally encounter Jesus Christ. The logo was released Dec. 19, 2007 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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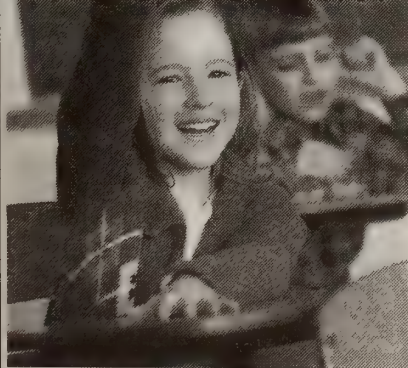
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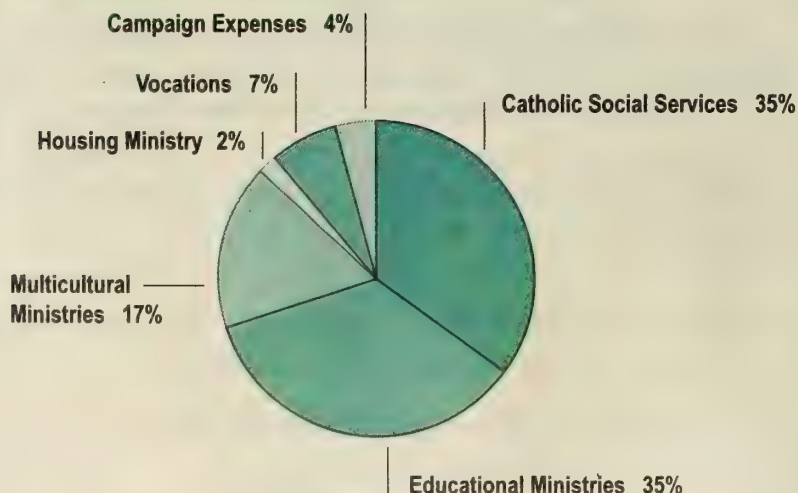


## 2008 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

<b>CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES DIOCESAN MINISTRIES</b>	
Family Life Office	\$244,152
— Elder Ministry	
— Marriage Preparation	
— Natural Family Planning	
— Respect Life	
Office of Justice and Peace	\$162,446
— Office of Economic Opportunity	
Catholic Social Services Administration	\$281,275
Refugee Resettlement Office	\$49,232
<b>CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES REGIONAL SERVICES</b>	
CSS Western Regional Office, Asheville	\$208,200
— Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program	
CSS Charlotte Regional Office	\$307,244
CSS Piedmont Triad Office, Winston-Salem	\$282,480
— Greensboro Satellite Office	
— Latino Family Center, High Point	
— Casa Guadalupe, Winston-Salem	
— Casa Guadalupe, Greensboro	
<b>HOUSING MINISTRY</b>	\$105,926
<b>MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES</b>	
African American Affairs Ministry	\$42,523
Hispanic Ministry	\$661,302
Hmong Ministry	\$46,112
Native American Ministry	\$15,983
<b>EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES</b>	
Campus Ministry	\$474,390
Catholic Schools Administration	\$243,285
Education Office	\$76,014
Evangelization and Lay Ministry Formation	\$83,408
Faith Formation	\$371,378
Media Resources	\$95,975
Young Adult Ministry	\$59,928
Youth Ministry	\$157,490
<b>VOCATIONS</b>	
Permanent Diaconate	\$134,958
Seminarian Education	\$158,214
<b>CAMPAIGN EXPENSES</b>	\$178,085
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,440,000</b>

For more information on this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html).

### Allocation of funds



## DSA-supported agencies and ministries

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES DIOCESAN OFFICES

<b>Family Life Office</b>	(704) 370-3228
— Elder Ministries	(704) 370-3220
— Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
— Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3228
— Respect Life	(704) 370-3229

<b>Office of Justice and Peace</b>	(704) 370-3225
— Office of Economic Opportunity	(828) 835-3535

<b>Catholic Social Services Administration</b>	(704) 370-3262
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<b>Refugee Resettlement Office</b>	(704) 370-3262
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### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES REGIONAL OFFICES

*Offering adoption, Hispanic services, counseling, pregnancy support*

<b>CSS Western Regional Office, Asheville</b>	(828) 255-0146
— Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program	(828) 255-0146

<b>CSS Charlotte Regional Office</b>	(704) 370-6155
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<b>CSS Piedmont Triad Regional Office, Winston-Salem</b>	(336) 727-0705
— Greensboro Satellite Office	(336) 274-5577
— Latino Family Center, High Point	(336) 884-5858
— Casa Guadalupe, Winston-Salem	(336) 727-4745
— Casa Guadalupe, Greensboro	(336) 574-2837

<b>HOUSING MINISTRY</b>	(704) 370-3250
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### MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

African American Affairs Ministry	(704) 370-3267
Hispanic Ministry	(704) 370-3269
Hmong Ministry	(828) 584-6012

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Vicar for Education	(704) 370-3210
Campus Ministry	(704) 370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	(704) 370-3270
Evangelization / Lay Ministry Formation	(704) 370-3274
Faith Formation	(704) 370-3244
Media Resources	(704) 370-3241
RCIA	(704) 370-3244
Young Adult Ministry	(704) 370-3243
Youth Ministry	(704) 370-3211

### VOCATIONS

Permanent Diaconate	(704) 370-3344
Seminarian Education	(704) 370-3353

## Ways to give to the Diocesan Support Appeal

**Pledge:** Make a pledge and pay it in equal payments over a six-month period.

**Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT):** Have your monthly pledge payments taken directly out of your checking or savings account. No hassle of writing a monthly check or mailings.

Fill out the withdrawal authorization on your pledge card and include a voided check. EFTs will begin on the 15th of each month once we receive your pledge card and authorization materials.

**Credit Card Payments:** Possibly the easiest method and may benefit from rewards on your card, such as airline miles or cash back; and you can enjoy the ease of no paperwork.

Fill out the credit card authorization on your pledge card. Be sure to include

the type of card (Visa or Master Card) and expiration date.

Credit card payments will be taken on the 15th of the month once we receive your pledge card and authorization.

**Online Giving:** Go online with any major credit card at the diocesan Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html). No hassle, paperwork or mailings involved.

**Stock Donation:** Make a donation of publicly traded securities and receive the tax benefits for giving appreciated stock.

A stock donation form and instructions can be downloaded from the diocesan Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html), or call Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302.



Parish goals for DSA 2008

CHURCH / MISSION	CITY	GOAL
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church	Albemarle	27,633
Holy Redeemer Church	Andrews	4,975
St. Barnabas Church	Arden	77,054
St. Joseph Church	Asheboro	38,569
Basilica of St. Lawrence	Asheville	76,478
St. Joan of Arc Church	Asheville	55,957
St. Eugene Church	Asheville	41,419
Queen of the Apostles Church	Belmont	17,618
Our Lady of the Americas Church	Biscoe-Candor	20,611
St. Elizabeth Church	Boone	37,924
Divine Redeemer Church	Boonville	13,772
Sacred Heart Church	Brevard	53,629
St. Joseph Church	Bryson City	5,629
Sacred Heart Mission	Burnsville	5,577
Immaculate Conception Mission	Canton	4,622
St. Jude Mission	Cashiers	20,184
St. Peter Church	Charlotte	74,586
St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Charlotte	113,146
St. Joseph Church	Charlotte	17,436
St. John Neumann Church	Charlotte	85,598
Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Charlotte	44,268
St. John Lee Korean Church	Charlotte	15,979
St. Luke Church	Charlotte	70,937
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Charlotte	104,637
Our Lady of Consolation Church	Charlotte	45,423
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Charlotte	45,174
St. Patrick Cathedral	Charlotte	86,602
St. Gabriel Church	Charlotte	294,078
St. Ann Church	Charlotte	54,398
St. Matthew Church	Charlotte	436,559
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission	Cherokee	2,381
Holy Family Church	Clemmons	116,911
St. James the Greater Church	Concord	85,459
Holy Spirit Church	Denver	38,751
St. Joseph of the Hills Church	Eden	8,949
St. Stephen Mission	Elkin	7,770
Immaculate Conception Church	Forest City	23,985
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Franklin	26,646
St. Michael Church	Gastonia	67,650
Our Lady of Grace Church	Greensboro	132,066
St. Benedict Church	Greensboro	21,717
St. Paul the Apostle Church	Greensboro	134,035
St. Pius X Church	Greensboro	112,538
St. Mary Church	Greensboro	35,468
St. James the Greater Church	Hamlet	12,529
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission	Hayesville	21,742
Immaculate Conception Church	Hendersonville	114,662
St. Aloysius Church	Hickory	107,877
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	High Point	108,648
Christ the King Church	High Point	16,250
Our Lady of the Mountains Church	Highlands	12,773
St. Mark Church	Huntersville	160,180
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Jefferson	12,165
St. Joseph Church	Kannapolis	15,867
Holy Cross Church	Kernersville	61,774
Good Shepherd Mission	King	12,089
Christ the King Mission	Kings Mountain	6,943
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Lenoir	22,973
Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Lexington	15,964
St. Dorothy Church	Lincolnton	19,751
St. Bernadette Mission	Linville	19,231
St. Margaret Church	Maggie Valley	21,155
Our Lady of the Angels Church	Marion	11,127
St. Andrew the Apostle Church	Mars Hill	8,405
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Mocksville	17,914
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Monroe	50,896
St. Therese Church	Mooresville	139,472
St. Charles Borromeo Church	Morganton	37,473
Holy Angels Church	Mount Airy	20,073
St. William Church	Murphy	22,149
St. Joseph Church	Newton	19,216
St. John Baptist de La Salle Church	North Wilkesboro	12,666
Holy Infant Church	Reidsville	15,443
Prince of Peace Mission	Robbinsville	3,184
Sacred Heart Church	Salisbury	73,308
St. Mary Church	Shelby	25,149
St. Frances of Rome Mission	Sparta	7,674
St. Helen Mission	Spencer Mountain	5,139
St. Lucien Church	Spruce Pine	7,736
St. Philip the Apostle Church	Statesville	42,744
St. Margaret Mary Church	Swannanoa	20,809
St. Mary Church	Sylva	16,035
Holy Trinity Church	Taylorsville	9,420
Our Lady of the Highways Church	Thomasville	14,344
St. John the Baptist Church	Tryon	29,558
Sacred Heart Mission	Wadesboro	3,307
St. John the Evangelist Church	Waynesville	20,396
Our Lady of Mercy Church	Winston-Salem	69,943
St. Benedict the Moor Church	Winston-Salem	12,279
St. Leo the Great Church	Winston-Salem	146,939
Our Lady of Fatima Church	Winston-Salem	9,831

DSA helps fund ministries, programs in diocese

DSA, from page 1

funds for more than 30 diocesan ministries offering more than 50 programs, including Catholic Social Services, housing, vocations, and educational and multicultural ministries.

"We are all called by Christ to live the beatitudes and put our faith into action," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Some of us are called to serve directly as counselors, priests and permanent deacons, catechists, youth ministers and lay ministers. One way we can all act out works of mercy is through a contribution to the DSA," he said.

Catholic Social Services programs funded by the DSA provide outreach to the poor, homeless and those in need of life's basic necessities. They provide programs for engaged couples and senior citizens, as well as counseling, adoption, pregnancy support and Hispanic services in regional offices.

DSA contributions help provide training for catechists and youth and lay ministers entrusted with the teaching mission of the church. The DSA also helps fund the formation of seminarians for the diocese.

"Chances are good that you or someone you know will be helped by one or more of the DSA-funded ministries," said Kelley.

**Making "dollars and sense" of the DSA**

Each of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese is assigned a target — "their share of the overall goal of \$4,440,000," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"This is accomplished by using a formula established by a task force of lay people, pastors and finance council representatives," he said.

Church offertory from the last fiscal year is the starting point, said Weldon. Then, 25 percent of a church's subsidy to a Catholic school is subtracted, if applicable. The resulting amount is the basis for a mathematical computation that determines a church's pro-rata share of the DSA goal.

"If, through parishioner contributions, a church goes over its target, the excess is rebated to the church," said Weldon. "If a church falls short of its target, the church is expected to make up the difference from its own budget."

Planning for this year's DSA began last fall as budgeting for the 2008-2009 fiscal year began. Establishing the current goal of \$4,440,000 involved account-by-account budgets for each program and ministry that receives DSA funding, said Weldon.

"Two components — program changes and cost increases — are

"We are all called by Christ to live the beatitudes and put our faith into action."

— Jim Kelley

examined when establishing the DSA budget," he said. "We work very hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services."

The \$4,440,000 goal represents an increase of 4.5 percent over last year's goal. The amount budgeted for each ministry is published on page 8 in this issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

"We are committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and accountability," said Weldon.

"There are procedures in place to direct the disbursement of funds in accordance with donor intent and to ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. Financial oversight is provided by annual financial audits and the diocesan finance council," he said.

A complete financial report of the previous year is published as a supplement to The Catholic News & Herald in the fall of each year. The report includes a breakdown of actual DSA funding by ministry.

Diocesan financial reports for the past four years are available on the diocesan Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org/annualfinancialreport.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/annualfinancialreport.html).

**Putting works into action**

During the past week, all registered households in the Diocese of Charlotte received pledge cards and letters from Bishop Jugis asking for their support of the DSA.

There are several ways to give to the DSA, including credit card gifts, electronic funds transfer and online giving through the diocesan Web site.

A pledge may be paid over a 6-month period, beginning the month after the pledge card is received.

"Jesus gave us the beatitudes as a map of life, a series of directives. They show us the values that Christ cares about," said Bishop Jugis in his DSA video presentation.

"We are all blessed by God in some unique way. In return, God asks that we share our blessings with others in direct proportion to the blessings He has bestowed upon us," said the bishop.

"Your contribution to the Diocesan Support Appeal is one concrete way to share your blessings and live the beatitudes," said Kelley.

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of the diocesan development office.

**WANT MORE INFO?**  
For more information on this year's DSA campaign, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice/html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice/html).



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Editor of what was Russia's only Catholic paper discusses closure

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — The editor of what was once Russia's only Catholic weekly said he has accepted the decision to shut down the newspaper, but expressed disappointment over its sudden closure.

Viktor Kroul, editor of Svet Evangelia (Light of the Gospel), said Archbishop Paolo Pezzi of the Moscow-based Archdiocese of the Mother of God had not notified him personally why the newspaper was shut down.

"This isn't an act of suppression — it's a difference of understanding," said Kroul, referring to the decision to close the paper.

"The problem is that our new archbishop has a completely different plan for the Catholic media in Russia and hasn't explained it to readers of Svet Evangelia. I hope the ecclesial authorities will at some stage offer an explanation."

He said he believed it would take months to set up an alternative Catholic media network in Russia.

"For 13 years, Svet Evangelia has been a tool for the church's revival and rebirth in Russia," he said.

"It was always my dream that the paper would remain alive, even if I was no longer editor. Yet the paper is now closed, and I've been thanked and dismissed. It would be difficult for me to cooperate with any new church media," he said.

The Catholic weekly, Russia's first since the 1917 Russian Revolution, was solvent financially and provided

a vital information source for local priests around the country, Kroul told Catholic News Service Jan. 9, after the newspaper closed Christmas Day with its 650th issue.

He added that the paper's staff had been surprised by its sudden liquidation and hoped to set up an unofficial, online New Svet Evangelia.

Father Igor Kovalevsky, secretary-general of the Russian bishops' conference, said, "It isn't a question of closing the newspaper, but of reshaping it to suit a new information policy which reflects current needs."

He told CNS Jan. 9 that "all necessary information" about the Catholic Church could be obtained from Russia's Interfax and Blagovest news agencies.

"Besides cooperating with these Russian-language news agencies, which continually explain the Catholic Church's standpoint, the bishops' conference also plans to provide more information via its Web site," Father Kovalevsky said.

Russia's Gazeta daily reported the closure had been ordered under pressure from Orthodox leaders, but Father Kovalevsky said the move had been decided solely by the archdiocese.

"To claim it was shut down unnecessarily is a distortion — none of our bishops has made any such suggestion," Father Kovalevsky said.

"The (Orthodox) Moscow Patriarchate has said it didn't regard Svet Evangelia as a source of Catholic proselytism, and nothing has happened to impede an improvement in Catholic-Orthodox relations."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 10, 2008

Feb. 10, First Sunday of Lent

### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Psalm 51:3-6, 12-13, 17
- 2) Romans 5:12-19  
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

## Jesus strengthens us by his example

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Lent begins again. Once more we enter into our contemplation of Jesus' long road to Jerusalem and the cross.

Once more his example of setting off firmly in obedience is set before us.

In this weekend's readings we have Jesus' temptation in the desert and his refusal to take advantage of his position as the Son of God.

He uses Scripture to answer each temptation of the devil, and in this way he, even Jesus, relies on the power of God outside himself, the certainty of the revealed word to turn away evil.

So often we think in terms of sacrifice to turn us toward repentance and a renewed appreciation of the remarkable gift God has given us in Jesus, and we should. Jesus made the way clear for us to repent, be forgiven, and be redeemed by his sacrifice.

But he also offered avoidance of sin as an example we can benefit from.

One of the guys on the cleaning crew at the Catholic Center once lived in a neighborhood where warring gangs

fought for turf and dominance. This young man was a strong Christian, a Baptist, and he used his faith to become a peacemaker, encouraging gang members to be at peace with their enemies.

His was an act of courage modeled on the courage of his Savior, a way to help others avoid sin and its consequences.

Once, at a meeting of Texas Catholic journalists, a young man indicated to a group of us that he was planning to go out with one of the waitresses after hours rather than returning to his own wife and children. A friend and I encouraged him to hold firm to his marriage commitment.

"A real man lives by his commitments," we told him.

In the end, at least that night, he did the manly thing, perhaps not even knowing that the ultimate real man we had in mind was Jesus. But he knew from speaking to us that all in our group were believers.

The lesson of where to draw strength could not have been lost on him.

And so it is: Jesus strengthens us by his example and makes a way for our return when we stumble. How grateful we are that he faced the long road, endured the suffering, paid the cost, lived out his commitment — for us.

### Questions:

How can you use your Lenten practices to build up your determination to do good and avoid evil? How might you encourage those around you to live holy lives, to strengthen their faith?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

Jesus replied, "It is written: 'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 3-9

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time)**, Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday**, 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday (St. Agatha)**, 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday after Ash Wednesday)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday after Ash Wednesday)**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 10-16

**Sunday (First Sunday of Lent)**, Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; **Monday (Our Lady of Lourdes)**, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius)**, Ester C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17, Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

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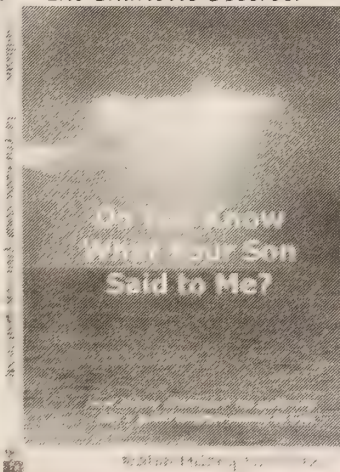
**Feb 6 - Immaculata Catholic Company**  
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**Feb 10 - St. Matthew Gift & Book Shop**  
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Charlotte NC, NLC-104 (704)543-7677(x1006)

**Feb 16 - Mary's Garden Catholic**  
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**Feb 21 - The Catholic Shoppe**  
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# Cinematic success

*A quality year brings more films than a top-10 list can hold*

BY HARRY FORBES AND JOHN MULDERIG  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series. A compilation of 10 children-friendly movies runs next week.*

NEW YORK — Though on-screen violence can often be gratuitous, 2007 saw a surfeit of major films in which it played a strong — but dramatically essential — part. Each of them was artistically outstanding and has already been widely honored by many of the awards competitions and in top-10 lists.

These blood-tinged titles include “No Country for Old Men,” “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead,” “Eastern Promises,” “Gone Baby Gone,” “3:10 to Yuma,” “The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford,” “Michael Clayton,” “There Will Be Blood” and “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.”

All of these sometimes difficult-to-watch films were well received by the Office for Film & Broadcasting, as they were morally grounded beyond their aesthetic excellence. But in selecting a 10-best list, we endeavored to find movies that would perhaps more directly reflect Catholic and/or strongly humane values.

Thus, while we acknowledge the qualities of those aforementioned films, our final list breaks down as follows, in

alphabetical order, followed in parentheses by their USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating:

“**Amazing Grace**”: Compelling historical biography about William Wilberforce, the great 18th-century British abolitionist who, with the help of other like-minded friends in Parliament and elsewhere, managed — after tireless and courageous struggle — to pass an anti-slave-trade bill in Parliament.

With its solid performances, accessible script and handsome production design, the film recalls some of the best historical dramas from Hollywood’s golden age, and is all the more admirable for its unabashed portrait of a passionate man of God (A-II, (PG)).

“**Bella**”/“**Juno**”: Two films that take different approaches to the same theme vie for this slot, with each beautifully affirming the value of human life.

“**Bella**” is the sweetly sentimental story about an unmarried waitress who becomes pregnant and her restaurant’s empathetic chef — an ex-soccer star whose career ended after his car fatally struck a child. He gives the young woman emotional support, takes her to visit his loving family and gently tries to persuade her to keep the baby.

The sensitive performances, positive depiction of the chef’s warm Latino family, and most of all, its affirmative pro-life message — along with themes

of self-forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption — should resonate with Catholic viewers (A-II, PG-13).

“**Juno**” is a smart, funny and moving comedy-drama with an equally strong pro-life message about an unwed teen who decides not to have an abortion, and promises the coming baby to a childless couple who long to adopt.

The narrative has just the right moral wrap-up; performances and direction are tops, unfortunately marred by the high expletive level of its appealing but sassy heroine. (A-III, PG-13).

“**Beyond the Gates**”: Gripping dramatization about the 1994 siege of a Rwandan secondary school at the height of the genocide, as a dedicated Catholic priest and an idealistic young British teacher attempt to protect some 2,500 Tutsi citizens from the machete-wielding Hutus hovering just outside the school gates.

Filmed at the actual locations of the horrific events with survivors among the cast and crew (A-III, R).

“**Into Great Silence**”: Poetically filmed documentary about a Carthusian monastery in the French Alps, which follows the cloistered monks in their daily — mostly silent and solitary — routines.

The respectful no-frills approach utilizes no narration or background music, but by combining alternately a painterly formality and a verite intimacy, skillfully captures the textures and rhythms of their highly structured existence (A-I, no rating).

“**The Kite Runner**”: Fine adaptation of the best-seller about an Afghan writer now living in the U.S. who recalls how as a boy in his native homeland, he failed to help and subsequently betrayed his best friend, and now finds he has a chance to

atone for that misdeed. Sensitive direction and beautiful performances add up to a fascinating portrait of pre- and post-Taliban Afghanistan with fine human values, strong affirmation of friendship and family, and redemptive ending that should move even the most stone-hearted (A-III, PG-13).

“**Lars and the Real Girl**”: Poignant story of emotionally fragile delusional man who — unable to make human connection — buys a life-size doll whom he presents as his girlfriend, and how others accept “her” as human out of love and compassion for him.

Suspension of disbelief is essential, but this improbable tale becomes believable, with themes of family, community, religion, forgiveness, redemption and a strong affirmation of human decency (A-II, PG-13).

“**The Lives of Others**”: Gripping German political thriller set in the East Berlin of 1984, in which a hard-bitten interrogator for the secret police wiretaps the apartment of a celebrated playwright and his actress companion, and discovers his own humanity in the process.

A suspenseful and profoundly moving story that besides bringing to life the ambience of pre-glasnost Germany, vividly demonstrates the transformative power of art while elucidating the conflict between ideology and conscience (A-III, R).

“**The Namesake**”: Superb, beautifully acted over-the-years saga about Indian newlyweds who emigrate to New York to start their life, and the joys and vicissitudes which follow.

This adaptation of the acclaimed novel holds your interest right up to its two-hankie conclusion, and has a poignant affirmation of family, respect for one’s parents, and embracing one’s heritage with pride (A-III, PG-13).

“**The Rape of Europa**”: Absorbing documentary about Hitler’s plunder and destruction of thousands of Europe’s most famous artworks during World War II, and the subsequent efforts to find those which survived and restore them. This fascinating story is compelling and demonstrates the dangerous lengths to which ordinary people were willing to go for the sake of preserving these precious masterworks (A-II, no rating).

“**Ratatouille**”: Delectable animated tale of a cute rat who develops his improbable passion for cooking by becoming the secret adviser to an esteemed Paris restaurant’s hapless garbage boy, turning the latter into a star chef.

The gorgeously animated production has a rare sophistication that should entertain adults as much as their children, while the messages of teamwork, honesty and following one’s dreams are strongly conveyed. (A-I, G).

**Classifications for the films listed above:**  
A-I — general patronage; A-II — adults and adolescents; A-III — adults; L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

**MPAA ratings for the films listed above:**  
G — general audiences. All ages admitted; PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

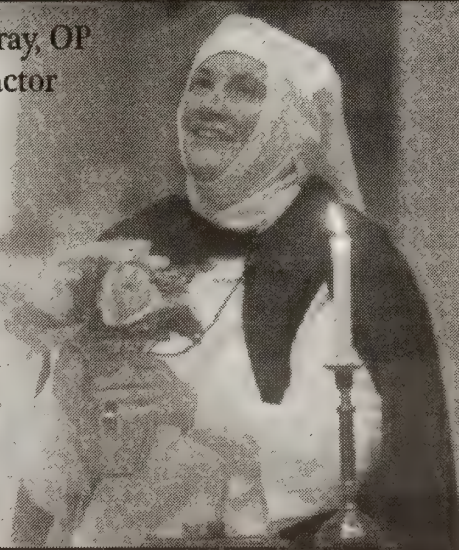
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### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Editor Kevin Murray at (704) 370-3334 or kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

## Director for the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry

### Diocese of Richmond, Virginia

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a full-time Director for the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. The director is responsible for coordinating the diocesan ministry to and with the young adults on the college and university campuses of the diocese and in the parishes. The director works and coordinates programming with all the campus ministers in the diocese. The director also oversees the Encounter with Christ program, Campus Leadership training, the Young Adult Convention and the administration of the office. Qualifications include a master's degree in ministry or a closely related degree; five or more years professional campus ministry experience; good grasp of pastoral theology; strong administrative, leadership and communication skills; good interpersonal and collaborative skills; and a working knowledge of computer software applications. The candidate must be an active practicing Catholic. Good benefits package and salary commensurate with experience. Closing date is March 14, 2008. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org or mail to P. Barkster, HR Administration Coordinator, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294-4201.



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## IN OUR SCHOOLS



COURTESY PHOTO

## In the habitat

*St. Patrick School wins, utilizes grant for outdoor classroom*

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick School in Charlotte was awarded a grant from the Arts & Science Council for the 2007-08 school year.

The \$5,691 Cultural Education in Schools grant will be used to enhance the school's science curriculum by revitalizing the outdoor classroom through hands-on courses and guest speakers.

The Arts & Science Council is a non-profit organization serving and supporting the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County cultural community through grant-making, programs and services.

This is the second consecutive year St. Patrick School has been awarded the grant.

In addition to enhancing the school's

outdoor classroom and garden, the funds will help create a National/NC Wildlife Federation School Yard Habitat.

The habitat provides wildlife with food, water and shelter, while offering learning opportunities for students and others.

Over the summer, volunteers worked on the garden, pruning overgrown areas, throwing away broken benches and tilling for a new garden area. In the fall, two loads of compost and mulch were delivered.

Students and their families then worked to redefine the area and create a butterfly garden. Due to the drought, planting in these areas was delayed until early November.

Students in all grades have utilized the outdoor classroom. In October, kindergarten and first-grade students learned about butterflies and the plants they need to survive, while second-graders learned how to utilize weather tracking devices for productive gardening.

Third-graders are taking a field trip to learn about soil at Charlotte's Discovery Place in February, and later are planting seedlings in the garden. In November, fourth- and fifth-graders visited the Carolina Raptor Center to learn about birds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Second-graders work in the new butterfly garden at St. Patrick School in Charlotte in November 2007. Top left: Fourth- and fifth-graders take part in an outdoor classroom course.

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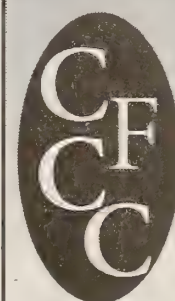
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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The 2008 March for Life

*Marchers bring light of Christ to dispel darkness*

The weather for the 2008 March for Life was bitterly raw! This, however, didn't stop thousands of pro-life marchers from processing from the Ellipse on the south side of the White House to the U.S. Supreme Court.

As buses from around the country descended on Washington and unloaded marchers of all ages, races and genders, I had to once again wonder what this march really means.

Going back to the previous day and Rev. Martin Luther King's anniversary gave me my answer. And I wondered why so many other idealists and inspiring people have been assassinated — Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Mahatma Gandhi and, more recently, Benazir Bhutto.

As a child my grandfather taught me to go to the Bible, for "nothing is new in life; it is all there in the Bible."

Going back to it, I found myself more puzzled than ever. Why did Cain kill Abel? Why did Joseph's brothers throw him down a well to die? Why did Saul try to murder David, and why did Judas betray Christ?

It dawned on me that when we are confronted with murder, killing, genocide, abortion and assassinations, we are faced with the direct antithesis of kindness. Kindness means being well-disposed toward life, others and ourselves. When we become ill-disposed, our disposition becomes darkened. No longer are we able to see beauty or experience goodness. The heart becomes hardened, almost as if the devil is there.

When we go beneath this darkness,

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



we often find it is propelled by jealousy, resentment and selfishness. The goodness and high ideals of another become viewed as taking something away from us.

We not only opt to distance ourselves from society, but to also despise it. I wondered how many marchers realize they are marching for the light of Christ that dispels the darkness that is at the heart of ill disposition.

Depression is one of the worst darkenings of the mind we can experience. However, the darkness of mind that causes abortions, racism, genocide and euthanasia is far more dreadful because of its damaging effects on the human spirit.

What is the light of Christ of which we speak? It is faith when debilitating skepticism threatens to cripple us, hope when despair is crushing in on us, and love when hate jeopardizes our healthy disposition.

To walk in Christ's light is to choose life over death, selflessness over selfishness, and harmony and constructiveness over turmoil and destruction. Marching for life is to march for the beautiful human spirit with which God blessed us.

## The spiritual voice in the American presidential primaries

*Faith intimately guides person's interior while law, politics guide exterior*

In secular terms, it is commonplace to hear some dissatisfaction with each candidate in the American primaries. Politics being the art of compromise, seldom is a single candidate perfect in policy.

Remarkably, it is in religious terms that a far more positive and encouraging assessment can be given.

I had not planned to write about politics in this column. This restraint is especially appropriate since former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney named me along with Harvard's Mary Ann Glendon (until her recent appointment as U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican) as volunteer legal advisers to his campaign.

But these words transcend partisanship. There is simply too much evidence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit afoot in our public deliberations not to make thankful notice of it.

Some years ago before his papal election, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger commented: "The church will have to develop a great deal of imagination to help the Gospel remain a force in public life."

It's unclear whether we have consciously taken up this challenge, but listening to both parties' candidates suggests that the Holy Spirit is indeed imaginatively raising our spiritual voices so that the Gospel may be a greater force in our public life.

Let me give just a few bipartisan examples, submitted neither with favoritism nor endorsement. Indeed, because of the ethically troubling positions some candidates take with respect to matters of unborn life or the treatment of immigrants or anticipated deployment of military force, a sensitively attuned Catholic conscience has a difficult terrain to navigate.

But as serious as the shortcomings are, acknowledgment is due the remarkable presence of a religious theme in the campaigns overall.

Take, for instance, Sen. Barack Obama's victory address in Iowa. It has been characterized as a landmark moment in American history.

A talented, inspirational black man is given affirmation by those not of his race without either contrived preference or undue racial emphasis on his or anyone's part — save, possibly, Oprah.

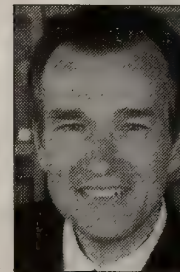
Said the senator: "We are choosing hope over fear. We're choosing unity over division."

This is a very Catholic sentiment. The catechism celebrates the diversity of races, cultures, languages and traditions within the church, and we take it beyond "held together by the gifts of love from the Holy Spirit."

On the Republican side, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee also won support in Iowa. That was easy

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W.  
KMEC  
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given his shared evangelical base with Hawkeye voters.

More impressive was his willingness to articulate moral concerns in places where it would give him no political advantage.

Said Huckabee: "One of [the] positions of moral clarity for me is to believe that every single human being has intrinsic worth and value. I'm not sure that it's as important an issue — some say it isn't in New Hampshire — but I want you to know it is important for me."

Sen. Hillary Clinton is sadly pro-choice, but her candidacy too has given occasion to reflect upon the nature of servant leadership. By definition, if she shatters the gender ceiling, she affirms more completely than the Declaration of Independence that "men and women are created equal."

Insisting that there is a right and a wrong lying ahead of us, Sen. Clinton explained her desire to serve:

"It's really about all of us together. You know some of us put ourselves out there and do this against some pretty difficult odds. And we do it, each one of us, because we care about our country."

The importance of religion to American civic life was squarely affirmed in Gov. Romney's reflection upon his Mormon faith and faith in general.

Said Romney: "Freedom requires religion just as religion requires freedom. Freedom opens the windows of the soul so that man can discover his most profound beliefs and commune with God. Freedom and religion endure together, or perish alone."

That statement deserves approbation for affirming how faith intimately guides the interior of a person while law and politics can only touch the exterior.

The candidates, like us, are not always the model of their religious themes. Here witness the testy and unhelpful recent exchanges between the senators from Illinois and New York.

Yet, when the candidates are their better selves, they manifest what the Holy Father has said is intriguingly unique about "the American way of life."

Said Pope Benedict XVI: "In the American sphere people are taking up Catholicism as a whole and trying to relate it anew to the modern world."

Even primary campaigns, it seems, can be ecumenical moments guided by the Spirit.

## Solidarity with others

We were pleased to read "As Disciples in Christ: U.S. Cardinal George expresses solidarity with Palestinian Christians" (Jan. 18).

It was informative, newsworthy and refreshing to receive such news of Christians in regions of the world whose lives are in constant peril and who need to know they are not forgotten. This way, we can intercede in prayer for them and thus maintain solidarity with them.

We would like to see more articles of this nature in our diocesan newspaper.

— Robin and Bill Ach  
Winston-Salem

## Appreciation for N.C. Catholicism

I was thrilled to see the tremendous growth going on in North Carolina ("2007 a year of growth, blessings for diocese," Jan. 4). Having been there in North Carolina after Hurricane Katrina, I noticed a remarkable growth in the church there, mostly from converts.

I was privileged to attend the first

## Letters to the Editor

ever diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte and participate in the overwhelming "yes!" to Bishop Peter J. Jugis' question asking if anyone would like that congress repeated. I'm thrilled it has not stopped.

Here in Louisiana, we're mostly cradle Catholics and, unfortunately, a lot of apathy has entered in. North Carolina was a tremendous shot in the arm to me personally, encouraging me to hang in there — not that I wouldn't anyway.

God Bless all of you for your very informative newspaper.

— Patrick Cassidy  
Kenner, La.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. Each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.



# I am a Catholic: Stories of immigration and human dignity

*Catholics from from many places, have many faces*

Many of us have stories about how our ancestors' search for religious freedom, family prosperity and dignified work led them on a journey to this and other countries.

These stories are common to the hope and faith of peoples from all over the world, both throughout history and in our own time.

Below are a few of my own reflections about some Catholic families who came here for better lives.

Michael's family moved to America to avoid the famine in Ireland. They were hard working, skilled laborers. They came to America having heard that the streets were paved with gold.

They arrived to find the streets weren't even paved, and they were the ones for the job. The Irish paved streets. They laid brick and block, and welded towering steel buildings.

They were firefighters and bus drivers. They worked hard, yet after they finished a city building, its new occupants would put up a sign: "Help Wanted. No Irish Need Apply."

The "nativist" even burned one of their convents. The hatred was strong, but they endured with hard work. They took comfort in their faith and the knowledge that their children would not starve in the famine they left behind.

Anthony brought his family to

America before the first World War. Things were bad in Italy at the time. He came to work in the coal mines, getting paid by the ton.

The trip over was made easier by the fact that the major coal operators had told Congress they needed more labor, men not afraid to crawl into the bowels of the earth and pull out the coal with their hands and pick axes.

Anthony was one such man. But even though he was hard-working and decent, life was not kind. The people who lived here, the Scot-Irish and the English, wouldn't let the Italians — the "Wops" — live in their communities.

So Anthony moved to a mostly Italian community, father away from the mines, in the flood plains, in often little more than tent cities. At least there a person could hear friendly voices, in Italian, and forget about the harshness of the job.

But even in these towns bigotry was evident. One time the Ku Klux Klan marched into their little town, letting the "papists" know they were not welcome.

Anthony endured all of this. He fought with dignity and pride for his new country in the first Great War, and his son fought in the second. Anthony did all this with the belief that someday his children and grandchildren would escape poverty and have better lives.

# Funeral stories

*A reflection of the lives people lived*

I passed a milestone this month. I celebrated my 300th funeral. In the last five weeks I had five funerals.

The deaths are sad, of course. But the funerals aren't.

What I like are the stories.

Mary, an African-American woman, died at the age of 101. She gave birth to 15 children.

She could cure anything. She made home remedies of herbs and plants from the forest.

Once she cured a young boy with a terrible skin disease who had been discharged from the famous Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The fancy doctors at Hopkins had given up on his case.

She soaked him in an oatmeal bath and rubbed juice from leaves on him.

Mary was not afraid of animals, but she didn't like cars. She would harness a team of oxen and take her children to town on a wagon.

But she saw a truck catch fire once when a man smoking a cigar looked in his gas tank.

"Cars are dangerous," she told me. "They have gasoline in them."

I think of Ray, a NASA scientist. He lost one eye to melanoma.

He was a chaotic genius type. Once he was working on a space capsule in a "clean room" at NASA. It was supposed

to be sterile, but Ray took his chicken salad sandwich into the capsule, got distracted and forgot it.

The sandwich was shot into outer space, and Ray had to come up with some explanation for NASA. He told them he was doing an experiment on the effects of weightlessness on mayo in chicken salad.

I think of Denny, who had a tragic life. He froze to death one night when he returned to his trailer too drunk to remember to turn on the heater.

A few years ago he became Catholic. Denny was so proud of our parish that he put the church name on a license plate on the back of his bicycle.

I was not pleased with the advertising since every time the police would stop Denny for riding his bike under the influence, they would bring him to my back porch.

His license plate was a sort of "return to sender" tag.

I think of Bill, a devout Catholic and courtly gentleman from Mobile, Ala. He addressed all women as "dawn-lin."

Bill was always praying. When he got into the car, he started the rosary with the engine. This had the bonus of keeping his wife from arguing with him.

Bill even prayed when he did the dishes. He gave each plate three wipes with the dish towel "for the Father, Son

## Active Faith

ANDY CIPRIANO  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Manuel came here from Guatemala with his brother. He came because he could not make enough money in his home country to buy medicine for his daughter.

He came because his heart would break every night the children didn't have enough food.

He came here to work hard. He is willing to do any kind of work. He can work on roofs or wash dishes. Most of the time, he keeps two jobs so that he stays busy.

He just wants to work and live a simple life so he can send money back to his wife and family.

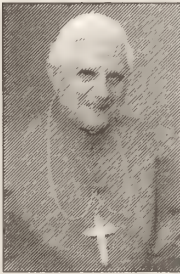
These stories bring to mind Jesus' words, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). And they raise an important question: Are we welcoming the strangers in our land?

**WANT MORE INFO?**  
For details on an immigration forum at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 12, see the Diocesan Planner on pages 2-3. Learn the immigration issues at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

# Harmony between faith, reason shows God is near, says pope

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic insistence on a close connection between faith and reason is based on the belief that God created human beings and is always close to them, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The harmony between faith and reason means, above all, that God is not far off, he is not far from our reason and from our lives. He is close to every human being, near to our hearts and near to our intelligence," the pope said Jan. 30 at his weekly general audience.

The pope then continued a series of audience talks about St. Augustine.

For St. Augustine, the pope said, religions and philosophies that did not make sense of life and did not help people arrive at a truth valid for everyone were not worth pursuing.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue our catechesis on St. Augustine of Hippo, I wish today to consider some of the teachings of this great doctor of the church.

A passionate believer, he recognized the importance of bringing together faith and reason. It was he who taught that we should believe in order to understand, and understand in order to believe.

God makes himself known to our reason, although he always transcends what we can know through reason alone. As Augustine beautifully expressed it, God is "more intimately present to me than my inmost being" and "higher than the highest element in me."

St. Augustine taught that by belonging to the church, we are so closely united to Christ that we "become" Christ, the head whose members we are.

As our head, Christ prays in us, yet he also prays for us as our priest, and we pray to him as our God.

If we ask what particular message St. Augustine has for the men and women of today, it is perhaps his emphasis on our need for truth. Listen to the way he describes his own search for God's truth:

"You were within me and I sought you outside, in the beautiful things that you had made. You were with me, but I was not with you. You called me, you cried out and broke open my deafness. I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst for you."

Let us pray that we too may discover the joy of knowing God's truth.

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



and Holy Spirit."

I think of Hanne, who was raised in wartime Denmark. Hanne was a "sometimes" Lutheran who became a serious Catholic in her 20s when she became a governess for a wealthy family in Belgium after the war.

The young children converted her to Catholicism because she had to teach them their catechism.

When Hanne told her Lutheran father she wanted to be a nun, he sent her to America to distract her. There she met a devout Catholic man and married him.

Then there was Anthony. He was a father of six, and a lifelong, sometimes Catholic.

He was a "numbers runner." He liked to gamble on everything — cards, horses, whatever. We buried him with a cue stick, the daily racing form and a couple of lottery tickets.

Before we closed the coffin his daughter wrote down the lotto numbers. She said, "If he hits, up he comes."

The apple does not fall far from the tree.

Oh I love the stories!



## Two Catholic University students design altar, chair for pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass April 17 at Nationals Park, he will use an altar and chair designed by two students at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

John-Paul Mikolajczyk and Ryan Mullen, first-year graduate students in the university's School of Architecture and Planning, designed the liturgical furniture as part of a competition jointly sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington and the university's School of Architecture and Planning.

Their designs were chosen from a field of 21 entrants in the competition.

Architecture students, working alone or in groups of up to four people, prepared their models and drawings between Jan. 18 and Jan. 23. The entries were judged Jan. 24, and the winner was announced Jan. 29.

"There is something very exciting about this work you designed, so focused on what we believe," Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington told them. "When all those people (at the papal Mass) are looking at this, you can say, 'He (the pope) is standing at my altar.'"

The Mass is the only Washington public event of the pope's upcoming U.S. visit April 15-20. He will be in Washington April 15-17, and will be in New York April 18-20.

Originally, Mass organizers were going to set up the sanctuary at the stadium's second base. By moving the altar to center field, an additional 4,000 people can attend the Mass. According to some estimates, about 45,000 seats will be available for the Mass.

Mikolajczyk said he tried not to think too much about his work potentially being used by Pope Benedict. "That the pope will use our altar hasn't sunk in yet," he said.

The two students also designed the lectern and pulpit that will be used during the papal Mass. The model includes a 10-foot-by-4-foot altar with a substantial top, a repeating pattern of decorative

arches beneath it and a smaller base. The front of the pulpit — also called an ambo — is adorned with images of the Bible and the Holy Trinity. The tall chair back is decorated with Pope Benedict's papal coat of arms.

Mikolajczyk and Mullen said they spent an afternoon at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception studying the altar furnishings.

"We wanted to incorporate elements that would remind us of Christ's active presence and work in the liturgy," Mikolajczyk said.

The 21 designs were judged by a panel that included Msgr. Barry Knestout, moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Washington. Msgr. Knestout, who holds a degree in architecture and is overseeing planning for the sanctuary at the papal Mass, praised the winning design for its "delicacy and elegance. The winners obviously gave deep thought to the design and how it related to the implementation of the pieces."

The winning design, Msgr. Knestout said, included a combination of bold and delicate designs "that reflect the frailty of the human condition while showing (how) the strength of faith assists us and supports us."

Mikolajczyk and Mullen will work with the university's architecture faculty and the Washington Archdiocese to fine-tune the design and actually construct the altar and the other furnishings at the Crough Center, the university's architecture building.


The pieces will become part of the sanctuary for the pope's Mass at Nationals Park. In addition, Mikolajczyk and Mullen received a \$1,500 prize. A second-place winner received \$1,000 and five honorable-mention winners received \$500 each.

Archbishop Wuerl said the winning design was "a tribute to this school of architecture, Catholic University and the quality of students here."



CNS PHOTO BY RAFAEL CRISOSTOMO, CATHOLIC STANDARD

Ryan Mullen (left) and John-Paul Mikolajczyk, graduate students at The Catholic University of America in Washington, show the model of their winning design Jan. 28 in a competition to design the altar and furniture for Pope Benedict XVI's April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington. The students' design includes a covered altar, a papal chair, a pulpit and a lectern.



**Open House**  
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## 28th Cardinal Newman Lecture

**9:30 am — 4 pm**  
**Saturday, February 16th**  
**Dr. Scott Appleby**

Dr. Appleby directs the Joan Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. His work examines the roots of religious violence and the potential for religious peace building.

The Newman Lecture is an annual gift to the regional church to celebrate the life and ministry of Cardinal John Henry Newman. The schedule includes noon Eucharist and a chamber music concert.

**This event is open to all without charge or pre-registration.**





## 'Catholic Schools Light the Way'

Diocesan Catholic  
schools celebrate  
Catholic Schools Week

CHARLOTTE — The 18  
Catholic schools in the Diocese  
of Charlotte recently celebrated  
Catholic Schools Week.

Students, principals, parents  
and teachers took part in a  
variety of activities during the  
week Jan. 27-Feb. 2, this year  
themed "Catholic Schools Light  
the Way."

Catholic Schools Week  
is a joint project of the  
National Catholic Educational  
Association and the U.S.  
Conference of Catholic  
Bishops.

For photographs showcasing  
Catholic Schools Week highlights,  
see pages 8-9.

## Documenting human dignity

*Aim of science to help  
not the same as respect  
for life, pope says*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The  
Catholic Church supports  
scientific research aimed  
at helping people, but the  
destruction of human embryos  
or their use as "biological  
material" demonstrates that a  
desire to help does not always  
coincide with respect for every  
human being, Pope Benedict  
XVI said.

Pope Benedict met Jan. 31  
with more than 60 members and  
consultants of the Congregation

See EMBRYOS, page 12

## Stability, obedience and commitment



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK SCHNEIDER

Brother Edward Mancuso and Brother Anthony Swofford lay prostrate before Abbot Placid Solari during a Mass in the basilica  
at Belmont Abbey College Feb. 2.

## Two Belmont Abbey monks take solemn vows

BY ED JONES

SPECIAL TO

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — In a  
ceremony with roots dating  
back some 1,500 years,  
Brother Anthony Swofford  
and Brother Edward Mancuso  
professed their solemn vows  
as Benedictine monks of  
Belmont Abbey.

Abbot Placid Solari  
accepted their vows and  
celebrated the Mass in the  
Abbey Basilica Feb. 2.  
Participating in the Mass were  
monks of Belmont Abbey, and  
Bishop Emeritus William G.  
Curlin and priests from the  
Diocese of Charlotte.

By taking solemn vows  
of stability, obedience and  
commitment to a monastic  
manner of life, the two men

See MONKS, page 13

## Studying the sacrifice

*Deacons, wives examine aspects of Divine Liturgy*

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

MOORESVILLE —  
Permanent deacons of the  
diocese recently took an in-  
depth look at their role in the  
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Eighty permanent deacons  
and their wives took part  
in the liturgy class held at  
St. Therese Church in  
Mooresville Feb. 2. The class,  
provided by the diocesan Office

of the Permanent Diaconate, was  
presented by Father Christopher  
Roux, priest secretary to Bishop  
Peter J. Jugis.

"The day enabled the  
deacons to come together both  
in an educational and social  
setting," said Deacon Louis  
Pais, director of the permanent  
diaconate for the Diocese  
of Charlotte.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Transitional Deacon Brad Jones and permanent Deacon Ron Steinkamp assist  
Father Christopher Roux on Divine Liturgy procedures during a deacons' continuing  
education course at St. Therese Church in Mooresville Feb. 2.

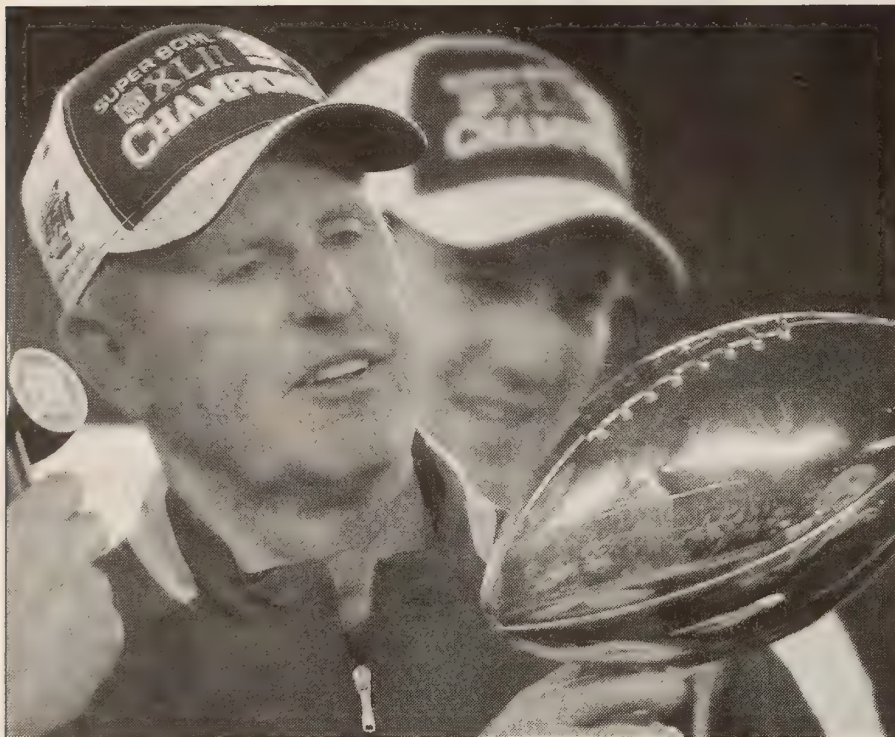
See DEACONS, page 5



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## GIANT FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE BLAKE, REUTERS

New York Giants' head coach Tom Coughlin admires the Vince Lombardi Trophy after his team defeated the New England Patriots 17-14 in the NFL's Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz., Feb. 3. Giants' quarterback Eli Manning, who was the MVP of the game, is pictured at right. Coughlin is a 1960 graduate of St. Mary School in Waterloo, N.Y., and attends Mass at the parish when he is visiting.

## New York Giants' head coach has ties to parish in Rochester Diocese

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Mayor Ted Young of Waterloo sees a link between the success of the New York Giants and St. Mary Church in his Seneca County village.

He and Tom Coughlin, the Giants' head coach, are 1960 graduates of the parish grade school. Young believes Coughlin's Catholic-school upbringing helped shape his coaching achievements in college and the National Football League.

"I think it played a large part. It sets your life values, and your values are set very early on," Young said.

Young noted that he and Coughlin were both altar boys at St. Mary Church, and that Coughlin's penchant for orderliness could well be traced back to the nuns who taught them.

"Tom was very dedicated no matter what he did, as far as sports and schoolwork," he said.

Young acknowledged Coughlin's reputation as a stern disciplinarian — a tag that's led to occasional conflicts with his players. Yet Young asserted that his childhood friend's intensity and passion have reaped big rewards.

"Say what you want, he's been successful everywhere he's gone," Young said. "His values, his determination, his dedication — if a little bit of that can be instilled in the players he's coaching, that can instill success. A coach like Tom drives you to put heart into what you're doing."

Such qualities came in handy in the NFL's National Football Conference

title game Jan. 20, as the Giants pulled out a 23-20 overtime victory in subzero temperatures in Green Bay, Wis., over the host team, the Green Bay Packers.

The upset earned the team a Super Bowl date with the New England Patriots Feb. 3 in Arizona. The Giants brought the Patriots' perfect season to a halt with a 17-14 victory.

These are pretty lofty heights for the 61-year-old Coughlin, whose early exposure to football involved pickup games with Young and other neighborhood youths.

Young and Coughlin went on to play football together at Waterloo High School, where Coughlin still holds the school record of 19 touchdowns in a season.

Coughlin coached at the Rochester Institute of Technology, spent many years as an NFL and Division I college assistant, then was head coach at Jesuit-run Boston College.

His first NFL head-coaching position was with the expansion Jacksonville (Fla.) Jaguars, beginning in 1995. He had an eight-year record of 72-64, reached two American Football Conference title games, and was named NFL Coach of the Year in 1996.

Coughlin became the Giants' coach in 2004 and has a record of 38-31.

Many of Coughlin's schoolmates and family members still reside in the Waterloo area. The coach has stopped back frequently over the years, attending Sunday Mass at St. Mary Church.

## Priest: Gospel can inspire health care workers motivated by faith

NEW YORK (CNS) — Health care providers who are motivated by faith can use Gospel inspiration to do the right thing when they might otherwise be tempted to take the easy way out, according to Maryknoll Father Peter LeJacq, a physician.

He drew on his extensive experiences in Africa to address a Feb. 2 seminar on "Faith in Medicine: Lessons from Tanzania."

More than 200 people heard nine physicians address medical, ethical, political and practical aspects of providing health care in the developing world.

He said the admonition to "go and do likewise" from the parable of the Good Samaritan probably summarizes the reason why Christian groups supply more than half the health care in Tanzania.

He also said that the Catholic Church provides 25 percent of all HIV/AIDS

services worldwide.

"There are those in health care who have as sincere compassion for the sick as Mother Teresa and don't formally connect their actions with a faith group," he said.

"Any health care worker can have that heartfelt and selfless motive to care for the sick as a friend or neighbor ... but for Christians, that parable can inspire us when we might otherwise weaken," said Father LeJacq, one of about 100 priest-doctors worldwide.

In response to a question about the potential use of human services as a route to indoctrination in the faith, Father LeJacq said that since the Second Vatican Council there is no longer a theological reason to try to convert people to ensure their salvation.

"God can manage people's salvation through all different venues," he said. "We care for people. God saves people."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Arden/Asheville area. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jebkraft@juno.com](mailto:jebkraft@juno.com).

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, at (828) 627-9209 or [jnell@dnnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507

S. Tryon St., will host "Men's Spirituality" the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. For more info, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875 or e-mail [mjl@seafoods.com](mailto:mjl@seafoods.com).

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Joan at (704) 847-7691.

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convoking 2008-09 as a special Pauline year marking the 2,000 anniversary of St. Paul's birth, a *Pauline Symposium* featuring talks by various speakers will be held in the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Next: Feb. 28, "Rethinking God After His Appearance" by Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts "Facing the Dilemma: An Educational Forum to Uncover the Legal and Moral Issues at the Center of the Immigration Debate." Speakers at this forum will address health care, public safety, education and employment, with an emphasis on how these matters relate to human dignity. The forum will take place Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. in the New Life Center. For more information, contact Terri Jarina at [terrijarina@juno.com](mailto:terrijarina@juno.com). Free and open to the public.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover presents "The History of the Catholic Church" Saturdays during Lent (Feb. 9, 16, 23; March 1, 8) 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Topics include the early church, the church of the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation and aftermath, the Council of Trent and aftermath and Vatican II highlights. All are welcome. No admission. To register, contact Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The *Benedictine Oblates of Belmont Abbey* will meet 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 at Holy Grounds coffee house on the Belmont Abbey College campus, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. For more information, contact George Cobb at

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## FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope asks religious to teach laypeople to appreciate Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the annual celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Benedict XVI asked members of religious orders to help laypeople draw closer to the Bible.

The pope said that, as the Catholic Church prepares for the October world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, consecrated men and women should help other members of the church learn to pray with the Bible and to draw direction for their lives from the Scriptures.

At the foundation of each religious order, there was a strong inspiration from the Gospel, the pope said Feb. 2, joining the religious in St. Peter's Basilica after they had celebrated Mass.

"The Holy Spirit draws some people to live the Gospel in a radical way and to

translate it into a more generous form of discipleship," he said.

"Following Christ without compromise, as proposed by the Gospel, has been the ultimate and supreme rule in religious life throughout the centuries," the pope told the religious.

The pope asked the consecrated men and women to "nourish your day with prayer, meditation and listening to the word of God."

"You who have familiarity with the ancient practice of 'lectio divina' (praying with Scripture) should help the faithful appreciate it in their own daily lives."

Pope Benedict prayed people would learn to look at the good works performed by religious and realize that the word of God can have similar power in their own lives.

gkcobb0428@carolina.rr.com or (704) 824-2971.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

**HIGH POINT** — Free Spanish Classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays through Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com or hlkwon@lexcominc.net.

**GREENSBORO** — Father Peter West of Priests for Life will lead a *pro-life Lenten mission* at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Feb. 9-13. He will speak at weekend Masses: 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9; 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10; and give nightly talks at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 11-13.

**STONEVILLE** — Who are Secular Franciscans? The Franciscan family of Greensboro invites you to a "Come & See" informational session to learn about the Franciscan way of life for Catholic men and women March 2, 2-3:30 p.m., at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd. For more information, call Frank Massey at (336) 299-5038.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

**HICKORY** — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

## SALISBURY VICARIATE

**SALISBURY** — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burgess at (704) 633-0591.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

**MURPHY** — A Charismatic Prayer Group meets

Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

**FRANKLIN** — The Women's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

**WINSTON-SALEM** — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Fraternity and Sisterhood" Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, call (336) 723-1092 or e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27, at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Franciscan Father Bill Robinson (Roman Catholic) speaks Feb. 13 and Pastor Steve Gerhard (Lutheran) speaks Feb. 20. For more information, contact Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or (336) 723-1092.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — Conventual Franciscan Jude DeAngelo speaks on "The Joys of the Sacrament of Reconciliation," the first in a series of workshops to assist in a better understanding and practice of Catholicism, 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope reformulates extraordinary form of Mass' prayer for Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has reformulated a Good Friday prayer for the Jews, removing language about the "blindness" of the Jews but preserving a call for their conversion.

The new prayer replaces the one contained in the 1962 Roman Missal, which is no longer generally used by Catholics but which may be used by some church communities under recently revised norms.

The new formulation was published Feb. 5 on the front page of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, along with a brief note from the Vatican Secretariat of State.

The text, made available only in Latin, begins: "Let us pray for the Jews. May the Lord Our God enlighten their hearts so that they may acknowledge Jesus Christ, the savior of all men."

It continues: "Almighty and everlasting God, you who want all men to be saved and to reach the awareness of the truth, graciously grant that, with the fullness of peoples entering into your church, all Israel may be saved."

The new wording removes language some Jewish leaders and groups found offensive, including a reference to "the blindness of that people" and appeals that

Jews "be delivered from their darkness" and that God "may take the veil from their hearts."

A reference to "perfidious Jews" was dropped in 1959.

Vatican officials have emphasized that the newly formulated Good Friday prayer applies only to the 1962 missal and that its use would be exceptional, since the old rite is not generally allowed during the three days leading up to Easter.

Nevertheless, under papal norms released last summer, some particular Catholic communities devoted to the old rite could use it in Good Friday liturgies. That brought objections from Jewish representatives.

The 1970 Roman Missal, revised after the Second Vatican Council, is the one generally used by Catholic churches around the world. It also contains a Good Friday prayer for Jews, which reads:

"Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may continue to grow in the love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant. Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Listen to your church as we pray that the people you first made your own may arrive at the fullness of redemption."

# Mark of Lent

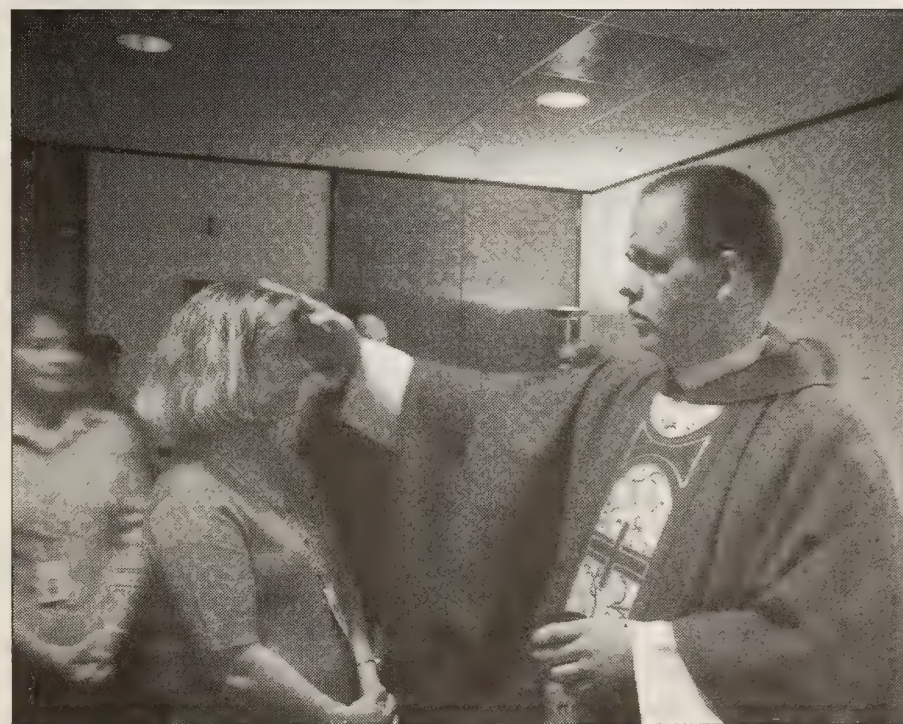


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Lori Fox, Catholic Social Services counseling supervisor, receives ashes from Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, during Mass on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, in the chapel at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season that calls Christians to prayer, fasting, repentance and charity.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**Feb. 9 — 7:15 a.m.**  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**Feb. 10 — 2 p.m.**  
Rite of Election  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler

**Feb. 16-1 p.m.**  
Rite of Election  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

**Feb. 17 — 4 p.m.**  
Rite of Election  
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

## CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 1 issue, several church DSA targets were incorrectly listed. They correct targets are:

St. Eugene Church, Asheville: \$76,478  
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville: \$55,957  
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont: \$41,419  
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe-Candler: \$17,618  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Candler: \$20,611  
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte: \$436,557



# Knights recognize outstanding parishioners

*Annual event highlights those helping to make differences in parish, community*

KERNERSVILLE — The third annual parish awards dinner was recently held at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

More than 100 people attended the Jan. 28 event and dinner, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 8509.

Juan Munoz, a Knight, received the 2007 Parishioner of the Year Award.

A native of Cuba, Munoz works to welcome back Catholics who have left the church. He also helped coordinate the parish Good Friday and Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations.

Carol Pennington received the Dave Reinhart Humanitarian Award.

Among her many parish and

community duties, Pennington serves as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, president and district deputy for the Columbiettes and chair of the parish Angel Meals ministry, and teaches the Liturgy of the Word to parish children.

Nicole Thomas received the 2007 Junior Achiever of the Year Award.

Nicole serves as youth leader of the local Challenge Catholic Girls Club and as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, lector and usher. She also volunteers with the Special Olympics, vacation Bible school, the parish Angel Tree and Catholic Scripture Study.



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRED HOGAN

Award winners Carol Pennington, Nicole Thomas and Juan Munoz are pictured during the parish awards dinner held at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Jan. 28.

# Witty remarks



PHOTO BY CHRIS VILLAPANDO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin shares a humorous memory about Father James Hawker (second from left) with parishioners during a Mass at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill Feb. 3. Father Hawker celebrated the 45th anniversary of his priestly ordination during the Mass, concelebrated by friends of Father Hawker — Father Richard Hanson, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte; and Norbertine Father Alfred McBride, an educator, lecturer and author.

Bishop Curlin, who appointed Father Hawker to St. Luke Church in August 2001, presided at the Mass.

The parish held a party Feb. 2 for Father Hawker, who also celebrated his 70th birthday.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald?  
Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith?  
Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us, so we can share them with our readers.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

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## FROM THE COVER

# Deacons, wives examine aspects of Divine Liturgy

DEACONS, from page 1

"As part of that educational setting, it afforded the deacons an opportunity to see the need for a uniform set of standards to be followed whether functioning with the bishop or in a parish setting at the liturgy of the Eucharist," he said.

All active permanent deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte are required to participate in continuing education, an annual retreat and an annual recommitment to the bishop.

Father Roux discussed the deacon's role in the Mass.

The Mass is the work accomplished by Jesus for the people, he said, and the

people of God are invited to unite their sacrifice to Christ in this work.

During Mass, said Father Roux, all become present at Calvary and participate in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ — the paschal mystery.

The priest, he said, stands in the place of Christ, Alter Christus, who offers himself to the Father for the salvation of all mankind. The deacon stands as the first of all the ministers of the church. Therefore, the deacon not only ministers to Christ but also assists him, in the person of the priest, in the paschal mystery.

"The Mass is Jesus' sacrifice for mankind to the Father, in which all humanity offers itself, through the priest, as a sacrifice to God in the unity of the Holy Spirit," said Father Roux.

Vatican Council II reaffirmed the sacrificial nature of the Mass.

Father Roux said that liturgical law is "prescriptive law" and is found in the Sacramentary, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, "Redemptionis Sacramentum" by the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and the liturgical norms of the Diocese of Charlotte, promulgated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Father Roux ended the presentation by taking questions on aspects of the Mass from the deacons and wives.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the rubrics of the liturgy," said Peggy Atkinson, wife of Deacon James Atkinson



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Ron Steinkamp and Cheryl Sims, wife of Deacon John Sims, discuss material during a break at the deacons' continuing education course at St. Therese Church in Mooresville Feb. 2.

of Holy Spirit Church in Denver.

"This was a very enjoyable and instructive day and, of course, seeing our fellow deacons and wives is always a special blessing," she said.

"As a deacon's wife, it is helpful for me to understand more about my husband's role in the liturgy," said Theresa Williams, wife of Deacon Kevin Williams of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte.



The permanent diaconate is one of the ministries partly funded by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's DSA campaign runs Feb. 2-March 9.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail [gpotkay@triad.rr.com](mailto:gpotkay@triad.rr.com).

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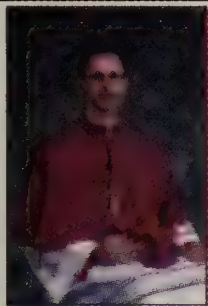
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**Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis**  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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## Dedicated Catholic Ministry Has Won Many Battles In Haiti's War on Poverty

Seeing the emaciated young Haitian boy sitting listless under a tree — skin and eyes sallow from dehydration — American-born nurse, Bette Gabrian, felt convicted before God.

"Here, an hour-and-a-half from Miami, children are starving," she said. "This can't go on. God is watching. We have to do something."

In addition to severe malnutrition, the five-year-old's back bulged grotesquely due to Potts Disease-tuberculosis of the spine.

"What was happening to this boy happens all too often in rural Haiti," explained Bette Gebrian, the Director of Public Health with the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF), a Catholic medical outreach with a long history of serving the country's rural poor. "His mother came home to the mountains to deliver her baby. She breast-fed for awhile, then she went back to Port-au-Prince because she had to find a job."

The boy's grandmother, whose own energy had waned with age, was not capable of caring for him properly. Although she loved the boy she nick-named "Raisin," the grandmother was unable to recognize the danger he was in, and her poverty kept her from having an adequate supply of nutritious food on hand. As a result, the boy was slowly starving to death.

And, as Bette Gabrian rightly says, situations like this are common in Haiti, where the population is destitute, medical care is inadequate and food is scarce.

Because of this severe poverty, Bette has had to see countless children die from heartbreaking — and totally preventable — maladies. But she has also won many battles, conquering such illnesses through HHF's programs, supported by Cross International Catholic Outreach.

Fortunately for Raisin, Bette happened to visit his rural village with her mobile vaccine

clinic. She recognized his classic symptoms before it was too late.

Responding to the boy's urgent needs, Bette took little Raisin to a nearby HHF facility where caring nuns treated his Potts Disease and anemia, de-wormed him, and lovingly fed him back to health. It took a whole year for the weakened boy to reach the level of health and vitality appropriate for a five-year-old. At that point, he could return home.

"But the important thing about this situation is that the boy wasn't simply brought home and left to fall back into his previous condition. We knew that was a risk, so we assigned a health agent to return to his village and do follow-ups," Bette explained. "That's the point of having resident village health workers, who are local people trained by HHF to provide health care to their own people. They do more than put a Band-Aid on the problem — they become part of a long-term process that improves the quality of life for the people in a meaningful way."

Cross International Catholic Outreach fully supports HHF's strategy, recognizing that the constant presence of a trained health worker greatly augments the care given by doctors who come to the village only for emergencies or for occasional wellness visits. Cross has supported these efforts and would like to find ways to expand and strengthen the outreach.

"Clearly, these resident health workers are essential to maintaining the work that's been accomplished by doctors and nurses. HHF has shown the creativity and commitment that marks most Catholic ministries for the poor. This isn't just a job for them. It's a mission and ministry. It's an expression of their love for God and love for others," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "This is



precisely the type of ministry we American Catholics should be supporting overseas."

Cavnar added that HHF's method of training local people to better their own circumstances is also right in line with how Cross works. It's a method that is both empowering and extremely cost effective in the long run. And this too makes it a wonderful project for U.S. Catholics to support.

"Ultimately, it doesn't take a huge grant of aid to save lives in rural Haiti," said Cavnar. "Pennies can literally mean the difference between a child receiving a lifesaving antibiotic or losing a limb from a staff infection; an expectant mother getting access to medical care or dying in childbirth; or an infant getting vaccinated or succumbing to measles. It only costs us pennies to help — and therefore not helping can cost lives.

"Like Bette, we should all feel concerned when we see children suffering. We should

all wonder what God thinks as He watches our response," he added. "And as Bette says, something should be done... and it can. All it takes is a commitment to get involved and support dedicated Catholic ministries like HHF, and thereby stand with them in their struggle to help the poor. Then, when God watches... He will have reason to smile."

Readers interested in hearing Bette Gebrian describe HHF's lifesaving work in Haiti can listen to interviews posted at [www.crosscatholic.org/podcast](http://www.crosscatholic.org/podcast).

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Cross International Catholic Outreach and its work with Catholic ministries overseas, either use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or send contributions to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00448, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

## Cross Recognized, Endorsed by U.S. Catholic Bishops

As Cross International Catholic Outreach has continued to extend the range of its relief work to help the poor overseas, a growing number of Catholic bishops in the United States are taking notice and commending the organization for its efforts.

"We've had many endorsement letters come in the last year or so, and our staff is encouraged by the kind words and well wishes these bishops have shared," explained James Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "It motivates us to want to push harder and do even more."

Most Reverend Gerald Barbarito shared: "Seeing Christ in the poor and extending assistance in His name is the very core of what we are about as Church. You are to be commended."

Most Reverend Timothy Dolan was equally enthusiastic, saying: "I am pleased to wholeheartedly endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach. It is my hope that the

clergy will familiarize themselves with Cross and its outreach and share Cross' message with their parishioners."

Most Reverend Tod Brown has a similar position, explaining: "As a universal Church, it is our duty to become aware of and support the missionary works of the church. I heartily endorse Cross International Catholic Outreach, its worthwhile mission and its dedicated preachers."

Most Reverend Curtis Gillory, singled out the ministry's good stewardship of funds, saying: "I realize the great assistance that Cross International Catholic Outreach provides for the poor at a very cost effective rate. I want to be supportive of Cross in whatever way we are able to do so."

Cavnar is inspired by these endorsements and the notes of encouragement coming in from other U.S. bishops, but he feels the praise should really be aimed at the thousands of American Catholics who contribute to



*His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler at a recent meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Keeler is now the official patron of Cross International Catholic Outreach.*

Cross and make the ministry's work possible.

"None of what we do would be possible without the donations we receive from the men, women and children in parishes from across this country. Those gifts, large or small, are what give us the financial power to send the food, dig the wells for water,

build the houses, deliver the medicines, open the schools — everything," Cavnar said. "I say, God bless those benefactors. God bless their generosity and their willingness to sacrifice for the benefit of others. Their commitment to helping the poor has made all of this possible."



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Priest's Timely Rescue of Haitian Orphans "Wouldn't Have Been Possible" Without Help From U.S. Catholics

The men standing in Fr. Marc Boisvert's doorway had terrible news. A nearby orphanage had just collapsed under financial pressure, and sixty-four boys were in urgent need of help. Many of the children had already gone hungry for days, and some were sick and needed medical attention.

No one else was capable of dealing with the problem — could he help?

Having worked with orphans for several years, Fr. Marc could easily imagine what the children were going through as they awaited word of their fate. First there would be shock. Then loss and emptiness, followed by fear.

Ultimately, these children would relive the full, crippling sense of abandonment that overwhelms all orphans.

"When I heard about these kids, my mind raced, and I wondered if I could do anything about it. My own orphanage already housed hundreds of children and we were financially strapped ourselves," Fr. Marc recalled. "I knew I had the heart for the job, but there were so many practical and financial hurdles to overcome. Could I afford to take those children in? And on the other hand — could I afford not to? This is Haiti, I thought. What are their chances if I turn my back on them? They might not survive."

Knowing that some kind of outside help would be necessary to properly feed, shelter and educate the new children, Fr. Marc quickly contacted several large international charities seeking their support. All of them turned him down... except one.

Within hours of hearing from Fr. Marc about the plight of the orphans and his desire to help, Cross International Catholic Outreach made a firm pledge of support and wired all of

the funds needed to get the rescue underway. Every one of those children was saved.

"The first week involved some adjustments," Fr. Marc explained. "They came in with nothing but the clothes on their backs, no shoes and many were clearly malnourished. They ate ravenously that first night. The next morning at breakfast, one of the kids seemed surprised and wondered if the food he was being served would be his only meal for the day. He wasn't used to eating every day — and certainly never more than once a day."

**"What are their chances if I turn my back on them? They might not survive."**

Fr. Marc Boisvert, Project Espwa

Over the next few weeks, Fr. Marc turned these new "visitors" into family. Meanwhile, Cross International has had to mobilize its programs to get the financial support that was needed.

"It's been a big undertaking," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "Fr. Marc had to have beds, sheets and towels, clothing, shoes and school supplies, among other things. Funds were also needed to bring in a doctor to examine and treat children that were ill or suffering from malnutrition. Now we are working on supplying food and other day-to-day needs."

For Fr. Marc, it has been a tremendous relief to have so willing a partner help handle the emergency.



"Here in Haiti, a Catholic priest is constantly in the midst of life-or-death situations — people come to him because they're desperate for food or have dying children in need of medicines or face some other urgent needs," he explained. "When they come to us for help, we want to respond, but we can't unless we have outside resources — food for the hungry, medicines to treat the sick or the other materials needed to get the job done. It's a real blessing to have Cross as a partner in times like those. In fact, without their support, taking in these additional orphans wouldn't have been possible... and these children wouldn't have the peace and hope they enjoy today."

Although the story of the rescued orphans is still unfolding, Cross is committed to providing Fr. Marc with the tools he needs to care for them... and give them new hope. To accomplish this, the ministry hopes to secure support from Catholics in the U.S.

"I'm confident that when Catholics in America hear about this urgent need and about Fr. Marc's goal of rescuing these children, they will want to help. We Catholics value life as a gift from God, and we have always supported our missionaries overseas," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "This

situation gives us an opportunity to put our beliefs into action. Our involvement is meaningful and it will have a tangible impact — these children will have hope and a better life because we chose to become involved."

In addition to seeking help from U.S. Catholics for these rescued orphans, Cross is also hoping to gain support for Fr. Marc Boisvert's larger goal — the development of "Project Espwa," a major housing and self-help program for Haiti's neediest orphans. Its goal is to take children off the dangerous streets in Haiti and place them in a safe, rural setting where they can recapture their childhood and take part in educational programs that will help shape a new future.

"Espwa means *hope*, and that is what this project is all about. It includes safe housing and food — the basic necessities of life — but its staff is ultimately working toward self-sufficiency for the children who will grow up there," Cavnar said. "Their goal to educate the children and teach them skills on the farm is a wonderful plan we should get behind and support. This approach does more than meet the immediate needs of these children. It gives them the gift of a brighter future. It literally gives them espwa — *hope*."

## Navy Chaplain Leaves Success, Opportunities to Accept Christ's Call for "A Few Good Men"

While serving in the U.S. Navy, Chaplain Marc Boisvert, a veteran of "Desert Shield/Desert Storm," made a trip to Haiti. He went, in part, to confirm stories he had been told about the plight of the poor living there.

What he saw changed his life forever — not simply because it altered his perspective on poverty or changed his political views, but because it moved him to act.

"What I saw — particularly the condition of the children — demanded my immediate action. I saw life or death situations, and I knew I could help... but only if I got deeply involved," Fr. Marc recalled.

After resigning his commission in the US Navy Chaplain Corps, Fr. Marc was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Commander.

"I sold most of my worldly possessions — all 17 of them — and moved lock, stock and barrel to Haiti. That was on January 1st, 1998," He recalls. Today, Fr. Marc directs one of Haiti's finest Christian orphanages, serving hundreds of children (see story above).

"You don't have to be a brain surgeon to see how devastating poverty is for children here. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and that is almost a death sentence to the kids here. Poor sanitation, polluted water, no access to



Fr. Marc, while serving in the U.S. Navy

decent medical care, no money for school and often no money for food."

"Still, some ask why I do this. In part, it is a response to Christ's words in Matthew 25. Jesus explains that in serving Him, we serve the poor. As a Christian, you can't read that and not take it seriously. You have to do something. You have to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and respond to the needs of the poor."

## How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00448, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.





# Diocesan schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week, the



COURTESY PHOTO

Janie Ritter, assistant superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, reads to pre-kindergarten students at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte Feb. 1.



COURTESY PHOTO

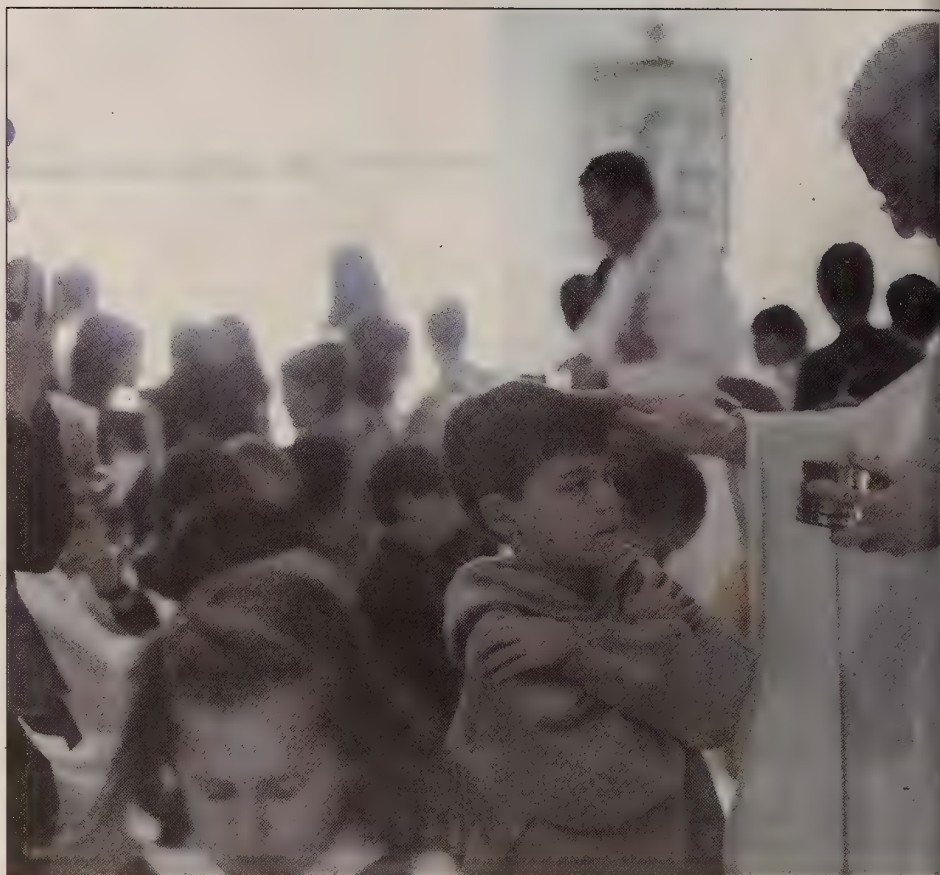
Above: Students of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro hold books collected for Pathways, a transitional residence for homeless families. Representatives from each homeroom presented a book to Father Fidel Melo, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, during a Catholic Schools Week Mass Jan. 30.

Right: Daniele DeCristo and Sarah Semke, students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, are pictured Jan. 28 with (from left) Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church; Principal Georgette Schraeder; and guest speakers Cameron Kent, WXII news anchor; and Diane Bullard, Catholic Social Service's Piedmont-Triad Office director. Kent spoke about how students can make a difference in the world; Bullard spoke about how student contributions have helped local families in need.

Below: Students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point enthusiastically display their most mismatched clothing to celebrate "Tacky Day" Jan. 29, one of many special events during Catholic Schools Week.



COURTESY PHOTO



Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin gives a blessing to second-grader Drew Palasick during a Mass at St. Mark's Church in Charlotte Jan. 28. In his homily, Bishop Curlin recalled his childhood experiences as a Catholic for his life. After Mass, Bishop Curlin spoke to students about the importance of vocations to the priesthood.



COURTESY PHOTO



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# themed "Catholic Schools Light the Way," Jan. 27-Feb. 2



COURTESY PHOTO

tersville Jan. 30. The Mass was part of "vocations student, which he said established a solid foundation life.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above left: Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, speaks with students at St. Matthew School Jan. 28 about how they, as Catholic students, can "light the way" for others by their actions and words. Above right: Bonnie Vess, physical education teacher at Asheville Catholic School, performs the Virginia Reel, a folk dance, with second-graders Feb. 1, part of Catholic Schools Week activities.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Below: Students at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte are pictured with "birthday bags" donated during Catholic Schools Week to Catherine's House, a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides transitional housing to homeless women and children. The bags, filled with cake mix, icing, candles and balloons, are for those celebrating birthdays while staying at Catherine's House.

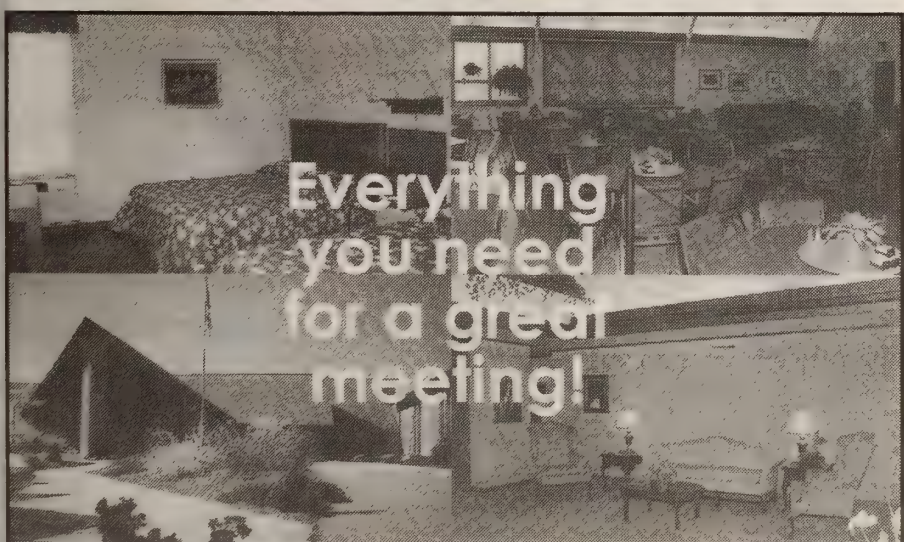


COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Olivia Ingram, Rhett Edwards, Emily Jandzinski, Seth Conlon and Miranda Cecil, students of St. Pius X School in Greensboro, are pictured with some of the 545 baby items collected as part of a Catholic Schools Week project. The 12th Annual School Wide Baby Shower was held for the Children's Home Society of North Carolina in Greensboro, which assists with adoption and foster care needs of children and families.



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COURTESY PHOTO

A star above the sign outside St. Ann School in Charlotte stays lit on all night during Catholic Schools Week. The sign states the Catholic Schools Week theme.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Death-row inmates caution troubled youths in new book

BY LAURIE STEVENS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TOLEDO, Ohio—Dennis Skillicorn can't change his past, but he believes he can change the future for young people in danger of repeating his mistakes by sharing his story and others like it.

Using contributions from prisoners throughout the country, the 48-year-old inmate from Missouri's death row edited a book of essays, poems and artwork chronicling the choices that brought prisoners to where they are today.

With the help of volunteers at a Catholic parish in the Toledo Diocese, "Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's Dreams" is being distributed in juvenile detention facilities around the country to remind young people about the importance of their decisions.

The book, written by death-row inmates and prisoners serving life-without-parole sentences, is distributed through Compassion, a nonprofit organization that produces a bimonthly newsletter written by and for death-row inmates in the United States.

The concept came from Skillicorn, editor of the Compassion newsletter since 2003.

In a phone interview with the Catholic Chronicle, Toledo's diocesan newspaper, from Potosi Correctional Center in Mineral Point, Mo., Skillicorn discussed his work with Compassion and his hopes for the book.

"Prison systems around the country are flourishing," he said. "And we're filling those institutions with our young people because they're making bad choices."

Many prisoners share a desire to prevent young people from repeating their mistakes, Skillicorn said.

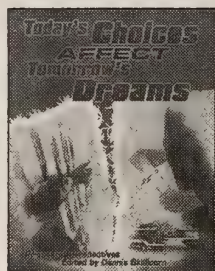
"A lot of these guys have children themselves, and what kind of man would want his own child to make the same stupid mistakes he's made?" he asked.

With the help of people on the outside, he believes the book can make a difference for youths. The purchase of one book allows two books to be provided for free to juvenile detention centers.

None of the proceeds go to inmates, Skillicorn added. All finances are handled by volunteers at St. Rose Church in Perrysburg.

Compassion initially sent 100 copies to juvenile facilities, but it has since received more than 200 additional requests for the book. Skillicorn said he has received letters of appreciation from judges and others involved in the juvenile justice system.

"Professionals have recognized this as a piece of material that could actually make a difference in kids' lives," he said.



Skillicorn, who was incarcerated on two other occasions before being convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death in 1996, hopes young readers learn the importance of choosing good role models and realize they are not invincible.

"I live in an institution with 800 offenders in it," he said. "Every single one of those guys at one time or another thought they were invincible."

He recounted his own turning point in 1994, after his arrest for the crime that put him back in prison.

"I was literally at the bottom of my life and I just had nowhere to look but up," he said.

He became a Christian, and has since become passionate about restorative justice projects with Compassion and other organizations.

The Compassion newsletter prints introspective essays, poetry and artwork from death-row prisoners throughout the country. Death-row inmates edit the publication, while volunteers at St. Rose Church oversee its publication and finances.

Compassion is distributed free to all 3,400 U.S. death-row inmates with the support of outside subscriptions and donations. Half the subscription fees and undesignated donations are used to award college scholarships to the immediate family members of murder victims.

Skillicorn said a number of inmates have already expressed interest in creating a second volume of essays for young people to follow "Today's Choices Affect Tomorrow's Dreams."

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## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 17, 2008

Feb. 17, Second Sunday  
of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
- 2) 2 Timothy 1:8b-10  
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

## God works through us, transfigures us

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I belong to a small prayer group composed of women, mostly fellow graduate students, who have been meeting on Sunday nights for well over a year.

When the discussion last week turned to the ways in which we felt that "God had been made glorious through us," we sat in silence.

Later, each of us sheepishly confessed that we didn't feel as comfortable "boasting" as we did recounting our failures before God and focusing on the ways that we needed to improve!

With that admission behind us, we then were able to share quite a few stories of how we had been instruments of God's blessing that week. We were not only free to marvel at God's goodness but also to celebrate how we had been instruments of it.

The readings for this Sunday disabuse us of false modesty and remind us of God's great pleasure in not only granting us blessings, but making us blessings.

The caveat, of course, is that our greatness, like Abraham's, is all gift. God grants it "according to his own design," through the "grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus" and not by our own merits.

It was this same sort of magnanimity that prompted the Father in today's Gospel to say of the transfigured Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

And when Peter, James and John cowered in fear at the enormity of God's glory revealed to them, Jesus lifted them up with the admonition, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Sometimes I find it easier to retreat from the idea that God could actually take great pleasure in revealing himself through me. The notion is too overwhelming, my shortcomings too apparent, for me to accept it.

Yet the doctrine of the Incarnation, the historical fact of God taking on human flesh, requires me to believe nothing less.

The Gospel passage ends with the words, "And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone." May we surrender so completely to God's gracious love that when others see us and the good that we do, they see only his Son.

### Question:

When have you been aware of God's goodness flowing to another through you? Meditate this week on how much God takes pleasure in you, his beloved son or daughter.

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 10-16

**Sunday (First Sunday of Lent)**, Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; **Monday (Our Lady of Lourdes)**, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius)**, Ester C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17, Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 17-23

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent)**, Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (St. Peter Damian)**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Chair of St. Peter, Apostle)**, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Saturday (St. Polycarp)**, Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

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# Cinematic success

## Top-10 children-family movies of 2007

BY HARRY FORBES  
AND JOHN MULDERIG  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part two of a two-part series. Last week was a list of movies reflecting Catholic and/or strongly humane values.*

NEW YORK —Not all the titles on last week's 10-best list would be appropriate for youngsters, and some (like "The Lives of Others") are strictly for mature audiences, so we have compiled 10 children-friendly movies for worry-free family viewing.

"Arctic Tale": An involving story charting the parallel journeys of a polar bear cub and a walrus pup in the Arctic Circle from birth to maturity and showing how they manage to survive a changing environment with ever-decreasing ice seriously impeding both their natural habitat and their ability to obtain food.

This impressively photographed documentary "fable" vividly dramatizes the challenges facing these creatures in light of global warming, rendering the film a vivid animal counterpart to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." (A-I, G).

"Bee Movie": Generally engaging animated feature about a scrappy bee who decides to sue the human race for stealing the honey manufactured by his hard-working bee brethren and brings the case to court, with the help of a sympathetic florist. An often very funny script, terrific voice work, and ultimately, a valuable ecological lesson. (A-I, PG).

"Bridge to Terabithia": Coming-of-age fantasy based on a children's novel about a young loner who befriends a new girl in town, also an outcast, and together they create a magical world — Terabithia — where they can escape their real-life troubles. The young leads are charming and the sweet story gently imparts worthy messages about friendship, family and the power of imagination. A-II (PG)

"Enchanted": Clever musical romance follows a maiden from the world of animated fairy tales into contemporary, live-action Manhattan where she falls in love with a lawyer, despite the entreaties of her princely suitor and the meddling of an evil queen.

With affection and wit, the film gently spoofs the cartoon fairy-tale genre, on which Disney built its reputation, never losing sight of its traditional values and perennial charms. (A-I, PG).

"Evan Almighty": Surprisingly felicitous contemporary spin on the Noah story, as a TV anchorman turned congressman is instructed by God to build an ark in light of an impending flood.

Imparting an overall message about how one act of random kindness can change the world. Slapstick, sentiment and surprising reverence are skillfully combined (A-II, PG).

"Fred Claus": Generally funny yet bittersweet tale of a sad-sack Chicago repo man who travels to the North Pole to help his younger, more popular brother, St. Nicholas, at Christmas, while a devious efficiency expert threatens to

shut down the elves' toy factory.

Underneath the laughs, this is a surprisingly resonant take on sibling rivalry, with lots of heart-tugging sentiment, and solid messages about family, self-esteem, forgiveness and, ultimately, redemption (A-II, PG).

"Mr. Bean's Holiday": The perennially pleasing Mr. Bean wins a trip to the French Riviera, but before reaching the beach he manages to complicate the lives of many. The film is an unmitigated delight: gentle, ingenious and equally appealing to children and adults. (A-I, G).

"Martian Child": Delicate, highly unusual story about widowed science fiction writer who adopts a strange little boy who insists he's come from Mars.

The slightly surreal tone keeps you guessing whether the child is simply delusional or actually an extraterrestrial being, and a poignant script underscores themes of nonconformity, loss, and the power of love (A-II, PG).

"Shrek the Third": The saga of the lovable ogre continues in the same high quality vein of the first two films, as Shrek — aided by a potential heir to Far Far Away's throne — must rescue his wife, Fiona, and the kingdom's other residents who have been captured by an assortment of fairy-tale villains.

The script's careful emphasis on good values such as believing in yourself, sacrificing for others, eschewing violence, and trusting in mankind's innate goodness override the occasional crude and mildly suggestive gags (A-II, PG).

"Underdog": An ordinary dog is given extraordinary powers in this charming film adaptation of the classic 1960s television cartoon series. The live-action adventure combines the best of 21st-century special effects with a genuinely engaging story line, some wry humor and unimpeachable family values.

Occasional crass language, some mild innuendo, and scatological humor and cartoon violence perhaps preclude the film for very young children. A-I (PG)

*Forbes is director and Mulderig is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

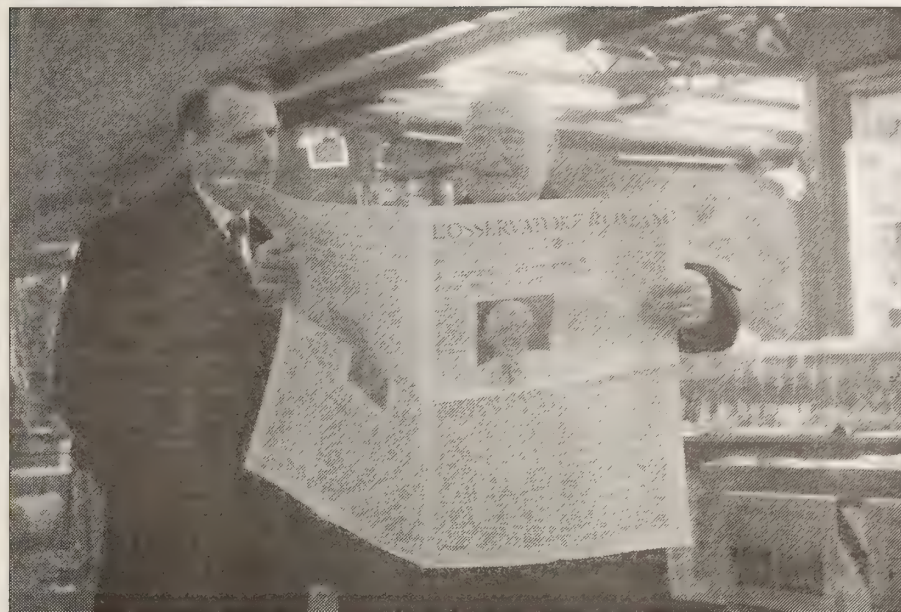
### The Office for Film & Broadcasting classifications for the films listed above:

A-I — general patronage; A-II — adults and adolescents; A-III — adults; L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

### Motion Picture Association of America ratings for the films listed above:

G — general audiences. All ages admitted; PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

## Now in color



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Men read the first color edition of L'Osservatore Romano at a newspaper stand outside St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 2. The official Vatican newspaper, under the leadership of a new editor, underwent a makeover aimed at improving its content and layout.

## Boston Catholics criticize fitness-club ad with women dressed as nuns

BOSTON (CNS) — A representative of women religious in the Boston Archdiocese said an advertisement in Boston Magazine for a fitness center that featured women in habits sketching a nude man was an insult to those in religious life.

"This ad is in such poor taste," said Sister Marian Batho, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and delegate for religious in the archdiocese.

"It shows a terrible lack of understanding of religious life and what religious life is all about," she said.

The ad ran the same week that the Catholic Church was preparing to celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life, which was Feb. 2.

Titled "Figure drawing," the ad depicts three heavily made-up young women dressed in traditional black-and-white habits who are sketching a nude male model in a pose reminiscent of Michelangelo's "David."

One woman has the skirt of her habit hiked up above one knee. In the background another young woman in a habit peers wide-eyed into the room from behind an iron door grate.

"It is insulting to all women who have chosen this life," Sister Batho said. "How we live and what we do is really the complete opposite of this ad."

The ad, which ran as a two-page spread in the February edition of Boston Magazine, was created by the Minnesota advertising agency Fallon Worldwide to promote Equinox Fitness, a chain of fitness centers that has just opened a branch in Boston.

In a statement issued in response to the sharp criticism, Equinox Fitness defended its advertisement, saying "the ads capture the energy and artistry of the well-conditioned body in a thought-provoking fashion, blending fantasy and impact."

An agency spokeswoman said the women were not nuns, but just "female models wearing black-and-white costumes."

Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization, said in a statement that Equinox's "patently stupid ad" suggests "the company must hype its edgy image in order to compete."

"That's too bad — apparently their targeted demographic group isn't lured by the prospect of more barbells and fruit bars. Hence, the need to rip off Catholic imagery in a sophomoric soft-porn ad," he said. "Of course, Equinox could have asked Fallon to replace the nuns with Islamic women covered with veils. But that was probably too edgy, even for these trendy types."

Rosemary Abendroth, global communications director for Fallon Worldwide, defended the ad, saying it was one of four ads in a campaign "based on the insight that there are deep and powerful motivations behind why people work out."

"We're not saying they're nuns. They are all models who are dressed in a certain way. It isn't meant to be a religious commentary," she said, speaking by phone from her Minnesota office.

Abendroth referred to the women in the ad as "female models wearing black-and-white costumes," and added: "For those who jumped to the conclusion they were nuns, they should be corrected."

C.J. Doyle, executive director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, called that claim "ludicrous."

"That statement is insulting the intelligence of Catholics. The models are obviously dressed to resemble Catholic nuns in traditional habits," Doyle said.

In a Jan. 12 blog post on AdAge.com, Advertising Age magazine columnist Bob Garfield panned the Equinox campaign, calling it "cheap posing as provocative, sophomoric posing as sophisticated, soft porn posing as self-actualization."

He also said the ad shows that "nobody's religion is too sacred to blaspheme."



# Pope: Aim of science to help not same as respect for life

EMBRYOS, from page 1

for the Doctrine of the Faith, which held its plenary meeting at the Vatican.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, congregation prefect, told the pope that much of their four-day meeting was devoted to studying several questions related to morality in the field of bioethics.

The cardinal said the study might lead to a new document applying the principles outlined in the 1987 congregation instruction "Donum Vitae" ("The Gift of Life") and Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life").

Since those documents were published, the cardinal said, "the biomedical sciences have made notable progress that, on the one hand, opens up therapeutic possibilities unknown until now, but on the other hand raises ethical problems that were not explicitly considered" in the earlier documents.

"For example," the cardinal said, there are "the questions of cloning, of embryonic stem cells (and) the unresolved situation of thousands of frozen embryos," preserved for implantation but never used.

Pope Benedict told congregation members, "The two fundamental criteria for moral discernment in this field are unconditional respect for the human being as a person from the moment of conception to natural death, (and) respect for the originality of the transmission of human life through the acts proper to spouses."

The pope, who was head of the doctrinal congregation when the two documents were published, said the church was criticized at the time by those who saw the documents as "an obstacle to science and the true progress of humanity."

However, he said, "the new problems connected, for example, to the freezing of human embryos, the reduction of embryos, pre-implant diagnosis, research on embryonic stem cells and attempts at human cloning demonstrate clearly how, with extracorporeal artificial fertilization, a barrier put in place to safeguard human dignity has been breached."

"When human beings in the weakest and most defenseless stage of their existence are selected, abandoned, killed or used as purely 'biological material,'

how can one deny that they are not being treated as 'someone,' but as 'something,' putting in question the very concept of human dignity," Pope Benedict said.

The Catholic Church "appreciates and encourages" scientific research aimed at improving human lives, including research using adult stem cells, fertility treatments and research aimed at curing genetic illnesses, he said.

But, the pope said, the church also "feels an obligation to enlighten the consciences of all so that scientific progress truly respects every human being."

Pope Benedict also thanked members of the congregation for the two documents they published in 2007, one clarifying the Catholic Church's teaching that it is the one true church of Christ and another insisting that the Christian obligation to evangelize does not violate its commitment to interreligious dialogue.

The pope said the two documents offered clarifications "necessary for correctly undertaking ecumenical dialogue and dialogue with the religions and cultures of the world."

The document on the church, he said, "confirmed that the one and unique church of Christ has its substance, permanence and stability in the Catholic Church and, therefore, the unity, indivisibility and indestructibility of the church of Christ are not annulled by the separation and division of Christians."

Pope Benedict said the affirmation should not create difficulty for ecumenical dialogue, but rather should help clarify the serious beliefs separating Christians, beliefs that theologians involved in dialogue still must tackle.

The pope said an idea that the one church of Christ is something that lies hidden and only will be revealed at the end of time "can do nothing but generate a slowing of and, ultimately, the paralysis of ecumenism itself."

He said the document on evangelization was needed because of a "persistent religious and cultural relativism" that treats all religions as equally valid paths of salvation.

"The recognition of elements of the truth and goodness in the religions of the world," their openness to dialogue and to collaboration in serving humanity, he said, "cannot be understood as limiting the missionary task of the church, which obliges it to unceasingly proclaim Christ as the way, the truth and the life."

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# Papal Mass tickets a popular request

*Hundreds apply for diocese's limited allotment of tickets to Mass at Yankee Stadium*

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — One of the hottest tickets over the last week in the Diocese of Charlotte was a ticket to the papal Mass in New York.

And having completed a random drawing, the diocese will be distributing its 100 available tickets for the Mass to be celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at Yankee Stadium April 20, part of his upcoming U.S. visit April 15-20.

The Catholic News & Herald reported Feb. 1 that the Diocese of Charlotte had received an allotment of 100 tickets to the papal Mass. The availability of tickets was first announced to priests in the diocese, then to the secular news media.

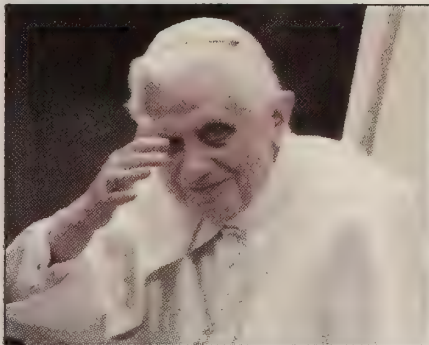
Within a few days, more than 700 applicants from 27 states requested more than 1,300 tickets through the Web page set up by the diocese to accept applications.

Applicants were allowed to request one or two tickets. Applications were received from as far away as Massachusetts, Oregon and Hawaii.

When the acceptance window closed Feb. 5, applications were placed in a spreadsheet and assigned a number. A random number generator — a mathematical tool used to select numbers randomly — was utilized to identify the ticket winners.

Winners were notified via e-mail.

For security purposes, the tickets are non-transferable. Ticket winners who could not attend the Mass were asked to inform the diocese so their tickets could



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 6.

be redistributed to others on the list.

The 100 winners will be among the 65,000 people expected to fill Yankee Stadium for the papal Mass.

The pope will be in Washington April 15-17, where he will celebrate Mass April 17 at Nationals Park, which will seat up to 45,000 people for the event. Ticket distribution for that Mass has not been finalized.

"The Archdiocese of Washington has received requests for thousands of tickets to the planned Mass at Nationals stadium," said a statement on the archdiocesan Web site.

"In the past, the custom for major events has been to distribute tickets primarily through our parishes, dioceses and organizations with whom we collaborate in the pastoral care of the local church," it added.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK SCHNEIDER

Brother Anthony Swofford and Brother Edward Mancuso face the congregation after professing solemn vows to Abbot Placid Solari during a Mass in the basilica at Belmont Abbey College Feb. 2.

## Two Belmont Abbey monks take solemn vows

MONKS, from page 1

will live the rest of their lives in the Benedictine community at Belmont Abbey.

The monks made their promises before family, friends and students of Belmont Abbey College. Upon Abbot Solari's acceptance of the vows, the congregation responded with a standing ovation.

The two new monks read their own professions. They then each signed their profession on the altar, witnessed by their spiritual directors, Benedictine Fathers Arthur Pendleton and Agostino Fernandez.

At the ceremony's conclusion, the new monks each received a black choir robe, which is a sign of solemn profession, in which each man will be dressed at the time of his burial.

The profession of solemn vows is the final step in a typically four- to five-year formation period.

After entering as postulants, the men spend a year as novitiates, studying monastic practices, church teaching and Scripture, the rule of St. Benedict and Benedictine history.

They then took simple vows and spent the following three years moving more fully into the life and work of the monastic community.

"During that period, we are trying to discern if the monastic life is really for us," said Brother Mancuso. "And, of course, the community is trying to decide if we're for them."

"We are also asking ourselves, 'Do we want to spend the rest of our lives in this community?' he said. "For Brother Anthony and I, the answer is clearly a resounding 'yes.'"

The two men traveled different paths

"The monks of Belmont Abbey are blessed to have these men become a permanent part of our community."

— Abbot Placid Solari

to living and serving at Belmont Abbey.

Born in Meridian, Miss., in 1964, Brother Swofford worked in the gourmet food industry before entering the abbey in 2004.

During his three years in simple vows, he served as an assistant in the monastery's business office, doing most of the shopping for the monastery and supervising the monastery kitchen.

He is pursuing his bachelor's degree in business management at Belmont Abbey College and will graduate in May. As a senior monk, he will become the monastery's procurator.

Born in New York in 1966, Brother Mancuso worked as a graphic designer before entering the monastery in 2004.

He has utilized his computer skills in the college's marketing department, and currently serves as the monastery's "guestmaster," leading tours of the monastery and college grounds. He also works in the campus bookstore, The Catholic Shoppe.

"Belmont Abbey is a place of profound beauty and peace. Praying and working as a monk here has given me the most peace I've ever had," said Brother Mancuso.

"The monks of Belmont Abbey are blessed to have these men become a permanent part of our community," said Abbot Placid in an earlier statement.

*Ed Jones is marketing director for Belmont Abbey College.*



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The great tripod of Lent

*We must accept, follow where the Lord leads us*

When I was pondering whether to enroll in a master's program in pastoral studies, my cousin Mary gave me some simple yet solid advice.

Mary had already been through the program, and she knew it was an expensive degree, and that money was a concern.

"If the Lord leads you to it, the Lord will lead you through it," she said.

OK, maybe you don't like catchy little aphorisms, but I do. For one thing, I can remember them easily, and often at their kernel is some profound advice that bears remembering.

So, believing that the Lord was leading me to it, I enrolled and have never been sorry.

During Lent, I would like to pull aside the rich young man of the Gospels — he appears in Matthew, Luke and Mark — and say to him like a wise and firm auntie, "If the Lord leads you to it, the Lord will lead you through it."

The rich young man (Mt 19:16-22) is so very like me, and probably like most of you reading this. He was a good person, and he lived righteously. He could honestly say that he kept the commandments.

My guess is that he also fulfilled the mandates of his Hebrew faith to be generous to the widow and the orphan. He was a solid member of his community.

And now, of his own volition, he sought out Jesus to ask, "What more do I need to do?"

Sadly for him, the answer was more than he was willing to trust himself — or the Lord — with.

✠ "Go and sell your possessions and

## For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



give the money to the poor. ... Then come, follow me," Jesus said.

So the rich young man went away sad because, Matthew tells us, "he was a man of great wealth."

Don't you love to imagine what happens to the characters in the Gospels as they disappear from the text?

I imagine the rich young man goes home and continues to lead a righteous, comfortable but probably uneventful life. He becomes the Gospel equivalent of the Chamber of Commerce president.

And when he dies, he dies painfully or peacefully with his family all around him in the comfort of his accumulated wealth, but always with a nagging sense of "what if?"

For to how many people in the Gospel did Christ direct individually those magical words, "Come, follow me?"

The young man was privileged to hear them and he turned away.

From what did he turn? Perhaps a life of privation, on the road preaching the good news. Maybe he turned away from martyrdom in the footsteps of Peter and Paul, Stephen and so many others.

For sure he turned away from adventure, from a chance to change lives, from a chance to rub shoulders with the great men and women of the first century. He turned away from a chance to meet death with all his integrity intact.

Mostly he turned away from what the Lord was leading him to.

What is the Lord leading us to this Lent? What's preventing us from following?

Where I am too fond of my accumulated wealth or my time, my addictions to food or drink or television or shopping or fear?

Prayer, penance, charity — that's the great tripod of Lent. Like the three-legged stool, Lent can't stand up unless we honor all three.

What a great chance to ask the Lord sincerely in prayer, "What more can I do?"

And then step with trust into the perhaps life-changing acts of penance and charity through which he will lead us.

## Overcoming one of the darkest days in U.S. history

*Soon all persons will be acknowledged as equal*

On Jan. 22, 2008, many Americans had their eyes focused on the financial markets with considerable anxiety.

Within minutes, the market was down more than 460 points — the largest drop since the twin towers fell on Sept. 11 — before extraordinary short-term action by the Federal Reserve calmed matters down.

As consequential as Jan. 22 was for the economy, the date has even greater salience for American Catholics, and indeed any person of faith.

Thirty-five years before was one of the darkest days in American history, for on that day in 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court had the temerity to presume — for the second time in its history — that it could define the essence of the human person.

The stark memory of this judicial hubris seemed especially poignant this year since by happenstance we honored the memory of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. only a day earlier.

Rev. King's nonviolent courage overcame the dehumanization of the black man and woman that had also been declared by the Supreme Court a century before the abortion ruling.

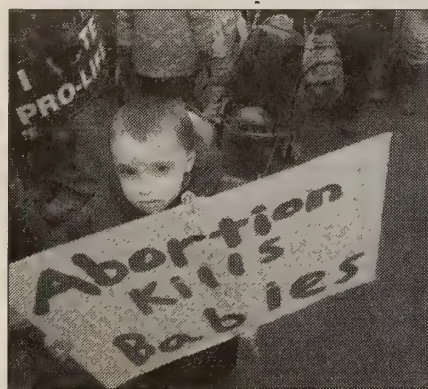
In dreaming his dream, Rev. King spoke and dreamt for us all. But the victims of what the late Supreme Court Justice Byron White called "an exercise of raw judicial power" have too often not had a voice capable of being heard or a dream capable of being realized.

The voice and dreams of millions of unborn children have not been heard since the court pronounced that state laws limiting the life-taking horror we hide with the term "abortion" were unconstitutional.

And likewise, we have not heard the voice of female citizens who, because of the awful personal circumstances of abuse or inverted cultural pressures or economic troubles like those we are confronting today, contemplate — what in a better world — would be unthinkable.

The state laws dealing with abortion were enacted by the democratic will of the people, and they did not transgress a single word of the Constitution's text. Rather, their asserted invalidity illustrates all too tragically the dangers of judicial activism.

Life itself loses its just protection

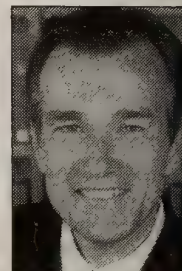


CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Peter Thompson, 3, carries a sign as he marches with his parents during the March for Life in Washington Jan. 22.

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS  
W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



when those who are given the honor of being called "Justice" render to us neither justice nor law, but only personal preference.

To whomever we decide to give the awesome responsibility and privilege of serving as the next U.S. president, let this solemn promise never be breached again: Those appointed to the federal bench shall fully affirm the Declaration of Independence when it proclaims life to be an "unalienable right."

Nearly every year since the court handed down its opinion in "Roe v. Wade," hundreds of thousands of marchers have in song, silence and prayer stood before the Supreme Court building asking for life, and the authentic American Constitution, to be respected.

The 2008 March for Life under veteran organizer Nellie Gray drew large numbers of families as well as high school and college students from around the nation.

The Catholic University of America just a few miles up the road from the Supreme Court is home to many of the marchers every year. They spend the night on the floor of the university's gymnasium or in the halls adjacent to that magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

As one walks among them, one feels the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit. CUA is a place of serious scholarship and splendid teaching, but no more so than on this day.

In the words of Catholic University's president, Vincentian Father David O'Connell, "Our greatest strength is our Catholic identity, for it gives form and substance, shape and direction to all that we do as a university."

Father O'Connell's words are put into action as thousands step off to march behind a banner proclaiming the 2008 theme: "Build Unity on the Life Principles throughout America. No Exception! No Compromise."

There is indeed reason to hope. Abortion rates are the lowest in 30 years and a December Time magazine poll reveals that more than half of Americans oppose abortion in nearly every circumstance.

A Fox News poll in October showed that 45 percent of Americans want to know a candidate's position on abortion before they vote.

Washington may be broken, and in the matter of abortion it is broken in spirit, but the day when all persons — born and unborn — will be acknowledged as created equal may not be far off.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Living out the works of mercy

## DSA is a way to help many in diocese

Several years ago I took a reporter friend with me to Greensboro for a story and photo shoot relating to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

We started the day at a senior center where residents were putting together Christmas gifts for the poor. It was light and cheerful and I remember thinking to myself: "Wow, this is great. They're enjoying one another's company and providing a service that will be a wonderful comfort to those less fortunate."

From there we traveled to a state prison facility just outside Greensboro, where we were met by a member of the prison ministry team.

It was definitely a contrast to the earlier experience at the senior center. We signed in at the office and went into the prison armed with a Bible, notebook, pen and camera. We were actually locked up in a cell and met with the inmates one at a time for Scripture sharing, interviews and photographs.

I was touched by the witnesses of the inmates, testifying to the importance of the Bible study and the weekly visits from the prison ministry team members.

The final leg of our journey took us to an old school building that served as an evening shelter and soup kitchen, where families from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro were volunteering that evening. It was bitter cold and we had to wait outside with everyone else for the doors to open. There I spoke with one homeless man who was hoping to



someday reconcile with his family. But that day he just wanted something to eat, a warm coat and a blanket for the night.

Once inside, each person received a meal, one item of clothing and a blanket. It was not an overnight shelter, so with a full belly and something to keep them warm, the homeless left again for the streets.

My reporter friend said, "Wow, Barb, you really know how to show a girl a good time!"

She was being facetious, but to be honest, that day really had quite an impact on me. I thought about Sister Joan Lorraine, my third-grade teacher at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, and how she drilled us on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

I had a chance to experience so many of them in one eight-hour period — feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the imprisoned, comforting the sorrowful and praying for the living and dead.

Today, as I reflect on these works of mercy, I am drawn to the list of ministries funded in part by the Diocesan Support Appeal — such as, the Catholic Social

## Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY  
GUEST COLUMNIST



Service ministries that reach out to those in need of counsel, comfort and basic necessities of life; the diocesan educational ministries that instruct our children, youths and adults on Catholic teachings; the multicultural ministries that provide instruction and outreach to our Hispanic, African American, Hmong and Native American brothers and sisters.

I think of the diocesan housing ministry that helps find shelter for those in need, and the diocesan vocations office that provides formation for our priests and deacons, whose lives will embrace all of the works of mercy.

I know that, as a Catholic, I am called to live the beatitudes and incorporate the works of mercy in my own life. But I may never again have the opportunity to visit the imprisoned. I really don't have the credentials to counsel the doubtful.

So it gives me great satisfaction to know that my contribution to the Diocesan Support Appeal will help fund ministries throughout the Diocese of Charlotte that provide all of these services and much more.

*Barbara Gaddy is associate director of the diocesan Development Office.*

## Pope says Lent is time of conversion, return to God

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lent is a time to return to God's loving embrace and to remember that true happiness can only come from being a friend of Jesus, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The Lenten journey is a time of conversion which means "letting oneself be overcome by Jesus and with him return to the Father," the pope said during his weekly general audience Feb. 6, Ash Wednesday.

"When modern man declares his total independence from God, he becomes a slave to himself, and often he finds himself inconsolably lonely," Pope Benedict said.

Pope Benedict said he wanted to remind Christians that they are called to "not idolize earthly goods, but to use them as a means for living and helping those in need."

The Lenten journey entails prayer, reflection, penance, sacrifice and works of charity, he said.

By promoting almsgiving, he said the church teaches its flock to be on the lookout for those in need and imitate Christ who made himself poor so others might become rich.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of our annual Lenten journey of prayer and penance.

In the early church, Lent was the time when catechumens prepared for baptism, accompanied by the prayers of the whole Christian community. Today, too, the Lenten season is a privileged moment of conversion and spiritual renewal for the whole church.

The rite of the imposition of ashes is a summons to return to God and, in doing so, to discover authentic freedom and joy. Jesus reminds us that only by "losing" our life will we truly "find" it. Our ultimate fulfillment is found in God alone, who satisfies our deepest longings. By taking up our cross and following the Lord, we experience redemption, inner peace and loving solidarity with our brothers and sisters.

During Lent, in addition to prayer and fasting, the church invites us to practice almsgiving as an expression of our desire to imitate Christ's own self-giving and his generous concern for others.

As we set out once again on this journey of spiritual renewal, may Mary, mother of the church, guide us to a fruitful celebration of Easter. A Blessed Lent to all of you.

## Iraqi refugees deserve our attention, help

### Catholics can make a difference with humanitarian efforts

I got an e-mail recently from my daughter Mary about some extraordinary people she met who work with Iraqi translators.

These Iraqis were targeted for death by the insurgents in their country because these translators were helpful to the United States. Now they are trying to immigrate to the U.S. — but they have no money.

Mary said some received help from the Education for Peace in Iraq Center. Wanting to know more about this humanitarian organization, I met with its founder, Eric Gustafson, who works continuously to inform Americans about the personal tragedies endured by Iraqis.

I wonder how many in the United States ever think about the people who used to live in their country of Iraq. I wager the answer is very few.

Yet, "four million innocent Iraqi civilians have been displaced by the violence and face an uncertain future," said Gustafson, who served in Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf War as a member of the U.S. Army's 864th Engineering Battalion.

"I came away recognizing how disastrous war can be," Gustafson told me.

His experience there led him to "become very active in human rights issues." His first stop, so to speak, was East Timor, when the country was invaded by Indonesia and 250,000 people, mostly Catholics, were brutally killed.

What was largely unknown to the world then, he said, was that Pope John Paul II visited East Timor, helping to put it on the radar. Other influential people such as then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Senator Russell Feingold also instigated U.S. support for East Timor, which became a sovereign state.

Through his work, Gustafson was approached by Catholics seeking to end the humanitarian crisis felt by the first Iraq war.

"I went on a fact-finding mission to Iraq and found such a demoralized society," he said.

"A half-million children under the age of 5 had died. All that galvanized me. I became an advocate for change, and in late 1998 I founded ... the Education for Peace in Iraq Center to aid people uprooted by violence in Iraq," he said.

During that time Gustafson met Lynn Friedrichson, now his wife, who worked for humanitarian aid with

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



Catholic groups. Gustafson also found that the best home for him was the Catholic Church.

He converted and now belongs to St. Aloysius Church in Washington.

EPIC has specific goals, according to Gustafson:

— President Bush needs to stop his silence about the refugee crisis.

— We have to generate more assistance for Syria and Jordan, where one in 10 people are Iraqi refugees straining the resources of these countries.

— Congress needs to fund humanitarian agencies to aid victims in Iraq and to compensate civilians for their extreme losses.

EPIC's supporters have stormed more than 300 House offices and 94 Senate offices with a call for Congress to assist and protect Iraqi refugees. They continue to build support for Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer's Responsibility to Iraqi Refugees Act.

"To walk away and ignore Iraq is not an option," says Gustafson.





CNS PHOTO BY PETER ANDREWS, REUTERS

Children mill about as women prepare food at a camp for displaced people in Eldoret, Kenya, Feb. 1. More than 304,000 people have been forced from their homes in the violence that occurred following Kenya's Dec. 27 presidential election.

## Responding with humanity and hope

CRS worker says agencies won't evacuate amid rising tension in Kenya

BY FRANCIS NJUGUNA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NAIROBI, Kenya — A church aid worker said Catholic aid agencies in Kenya will not evacuate their staff, but he expressed concern over the increasing insecurity across the country.

"We will continue to keep a close eye on security issues and take action accordingly," said Ken MacLean, Kenya country representative for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services.

MacLean told Catholic News Service Jan. 30 that "CRS has staff members monitoring the situation in four of the most affected towns — Kisumu, Nakuru, Eldoret and Kericho."

Insecurity is at times preventing field visits, he said. But CRS, Caritas Kenya and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development will not evacuate their workers, he said.

CAFOD is the aid agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; Caritas Kenya is the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, an international umbrella group of Catholic aid agencies.

MacLean added that the Interreligious Forum, with which the Catholic aid groups work, has recommended strongly the implementation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the aim of addressing the underlying issues related to the violence.

"We ask Kenyans to choose peace and patience as the country's leaders resolve the political crisis," he said.

More than 1,000 people have died and more than 304,000 have been forced from their homes since the Dec. 27 presidential election; international observers claimed the election was rigged.

Although some media have reported the violence is related to ethnic tensions, many Kenyans say the violence is related to an economic divide.

In a Jan. 29 statement, CRS said the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance committed more than \$2.8 million for emergency relief and reconciliation activities.

"Relief efforts will reach an estimated 190,000 people, with CRS working directly with church partners



CNS PHOTO BY ZOHRA BENSEMRA, REUTERS

A mother sits with her child and their belongings at a temporary shelter for displaced people outside a church in Naivasha, Kenya, Feb. 4.

and local dioceses to carry out the response as well as coordinating efforts with other international aid agencies and local community-based organizations," CRS said.

Bishop Cornelius Arap Korir of Eldoret told CNS he was concerned with the reported escalation of the violence.

"The humanitarian response from both the Christian and secular world has been very positive. We can at this juncture only hope that this will continue until we are through with this exercise of feeding and caring for the needy," he said.

Peter Kimeu, CRS' regional technical adviser for partnership, global solidarity and justice, said:

"The violence must stop now, and President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga are key to stopping this violence. They must each reach out to their followers and demand an immediate end to all violent acts."

Kimeu told CNS Jan. 30, "These two leaders must also take extreme care in their statements, choosing words that can pave a road toward peace instead of inciting Kenyans with new questions, frustrations, anger and resulting violence."

Kimeu expressed hope that political leaders and their mediation teams would be truly committed to the peaceful resolution of Kenya's crisis. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has been working with both sides.

In keeping with Pope Benedict's suggestion to honor St. Paul in this his anniversary year of 2008, we will present FIVE TALKS on St. Paul by FIVE different speakers.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Lenten regulations; a  
look at why God allows  
suffering; examining civility  
vs. incivility

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FEBRUARY 15, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 16

## 'A march without end'

Catholics take part  
in annual Rev. King  
celebration

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

ATLANTA — It was a  
weekend for reflection as well  
as looking toward the future.

Eighty-four Catholics from  
churches around the Diocese  
of Charlotte participated in  
the Martin Luther King Jr.  
celebration in Atlanta, Ga.,  
Jan. 19-20.

The trip was part of  
the Diocese of Charlotte's  
annual Rev. King celebration,  
sponsored by the diocesan  
African American Affairs  
Ministry. The trip also included  
visits to the Martin Luther King  
Jr. National Historic Site and  
Lyke House, the Catholic center  
at Atlanta University Center.

"It was a successful program  
that the African American  
Affairs Ministry can be proud  
to have sponsored," said Sandy  
Murdock, director of the diocesan

See KING, page 6

## Devotion along the Jubilee Way



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Lourdes hospitality volunteers assist pilgrims in wheelchairs at the sanctuary in Lourdes, France, Feb. 10. Tens of thousands  
of volunteers spend time each year at the shrine helping the sick and disabled complete a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Lourdes bishop says  
Mary sought devotion  
to Jesus, Eucharist

BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOURDES, France —  
Mary did not seek devotion  
from St. Bernadette Soubirous  
and Catholics but instead  
sought devotion to Jesus and the  
Eucharist, said Bishop Jacques  
Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes.

In the apparitions at the  
Massabielle grotto, Mary led  
St. Bernadette to Jesus and  
today intercedes for pilgrims  
and leads them to Jesus, the  
bishop said at an outdoor  
international Mass in Lourdes  
Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady  
of Lourdes and the World Day  
of the Sick.

At the grotto in the  
Sanctuaries of Our Lady of

See LOURDES, page 8

### MORE COVERAGE

More coverage of Our Lady of  
Lourdes events from France and  
in the Diocese of Charlotte can be  
found on pages 8-9.

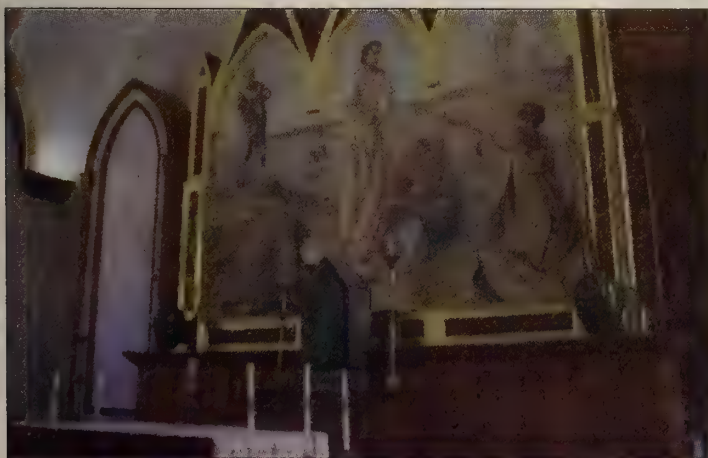


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A new painting inspired by the Gospel of John, seen in this Feb. 11 photo, is  
permanently displayed at St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

## Rising from the rubble

New artwork going up in downtown church

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — You  
can't keep good art down.

It was February 2002 when  
the central portion of a fresco  
fell in St. Peter Church in  
uptown Charlotte. For more  
than a decade, the artwork —  
with scenes depicting Christ's  
agony and resurrection — had  
become well-known beyond its  
parish walls and was considered

by many as an integral artistic  
contribution to the Charlotte  
community.

Six years later, the church  
has installed a new painting and  
has brought an artistic depiction  
of Christ and his teachings back  
to uptown Charlotte.

A large painting of Christ  
and St. Peter now resides

See PAINTING, page 5

## Breaking down marriage

Bishops' survey looks  
at Catholics' practices,  
views on marriage

Although nearly three-quarters of  
American Catholics say they are  
somewhat or very familiar with  
church teachings on marriage,  
a survey by the U.S. bishops  
indicates many are mistaken on  
certain church teachings, such  
as divorce.

For the story, see page 12.

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##

### Overseas outreach

Knights recognized with flag  
for assisting Iraqi family

| PAGE 4

### Culture Watch

Books on spiritual retreats;  
Catholic-Tube hits the Web

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MACS students win  
Academic Games

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## MONASTIC ACCOMMODATIONS



CNS PHOTO BY AMBRIA HAMMEL, CATHOLIC SUN

Benedictine Sister Linda Campbell escorts New England Patriots fans Clint Mills Jr. and Clint Mills III from their guest room at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery and Retreat Center in Phoenix Feb. 1. The Millses and 18 other football fans found lodging at the monastery for the Feb. 3 Super Bowl in nearby Glendale, Ariz.

## Benedictine sisters score needed funds during Super Bowl

PHOENIX (CNS) — While the NFL and advertisers used Super Bowl XLII as a chance to increase profits, some Benedictine sisters in Phoenix used the big game as an opportunity to further the work of the Catholic Church in spreading the Gospel.

By turning their Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery and Retreat Center into an affordable hotel for football fans, the sisters raised much-needed funds for expansion, increased awareness of and promoted religious life, and established vocation and retreat contacts.

Sister Linda Campbell, prioress of the monastery and a season ticket holder for the Arizona Cardinals, knew football fans would appreciate the 3.5-mile drive from the Phoenix monastery to the Super Bowl at the stadium in Glendale.

The sisters opened their 10 retreat rooms — that feature twin beds, a shared bathroom and no TV or phone — to 20 fans, who filled the rooms.

The football fans — who included a blend of New England Patriots and New York Giants fans — got a decent deal on a room and the sisters raised \$10,000. Their income stemmed from lodging fees and raffle tickets for a large, flat-screen TV to be given away Feb. 24.

The sisters treated them to a welcome dinner and a continental breakfast each morning. They also had access to a full kitchen, a cozy living room, a large backyard and a small chapel, where some

of the guests attended Mass before the big game.

During his homily at the Mass, Father David Donnay likened the beatitudes to a pre-game pep talk. He said just like a coach huddles his players, Jesus probably gathered his disciples and talked to them about how to spread the Gospel.

"If they can come away with a really positive experience about religious life, I couldn't ask for anything better," Sister Campbell said about the guests.

They seemed to enjoy themselves, saying the game was secondary to their experience at the monastery.

The money will help pay what the sisters owe for land they purchased nearby. The two sisters and an associate living at the monastery have outgrown the current property.

The new land will ultimately expand the monastery's services. The Benedictine sisters offer meeting and retreat space, spiritual direction and a weekly Mass.

The sisters' Super Bowl offer also put them in touch with a retreat contact and helped them get 10 national retreat commitments.

"We've gotten a vocation contact out of it" as well, Sister Campbell said.

A California woman had been researching convents and saw the sisters' Super Bowl lodging on TV. The young woman now wants to go through further discernment with the Benedictine sisters' oblate program.

## Church across street from sugar plant explosion becomes triage center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After an explosion ripped through the Imperial Sugar refinery in the Savannah, Ga., suburb of Port Wentworth the night of Feb. 7, Father Michael Kavanaugh knew it would be a long night.

"I opened the church and turned on all the lights, and opened the parish hall and turned on all the lights, because I just knew there was going to be a crowd," he said.

"And there was," said the priest, who is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The church is directly across the street from the plant.

The church's front lawn served as a triage center for refinery workers injured in the blast.

No exact count had been made, but an estimated 95-100 people were believed working in the plant when the explosion occurred.

Six people had been unaccounted for the morning after the blast, and CNN reported at midday Feb. 8 that authorities had found three bodies.

Father Kavanaugh said he was writing thank you notes for his birthday party at the time of the explosion.

"It knocked me off my chair," he said.

After calling parishioners who lived on either side of the Imperial refinery to see whether they were all right — they were — the priest and some parishioners who had come by to see the fire that engulfed the plant set out to welcome the injured and family members.

Helicopters landed at a public school's football field behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church to take some of the injured to hospitals.

Officials suspected sugar dust, which can be volatile, as the cause of the explosion.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Taize prayer service* is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taize is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convoking 2008-09 as a special Pauline year marking the 2000 anniversary of St. Paul's birth, a *Pauline Symposium* featuring five talks by five speakers will be held in the banquet room of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Next: Feb. 28, "Rethinking God After His Appearance" by Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover presents "*The History of the Catholic Church*" Saturdays during Lent (Feb. 16, 23; March 1, 8) 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Topics include the early church, the church of the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation

and aftermath, the Council of Trent and aftermath and Vatican II highlights. All are welcome. No admission. To register, call Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224.

CHARLOTTE — *The Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, invites adults for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere, Feb. 23, 7:30-9:30pm in the Parish Center gym. No charge, but donations accepted. To reserve a table for 6 or more, call Kathy at (704) 400-2213 by Feb. 22.

CHARLOTTE — *Lenten Evenings of Reflection* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, will be held 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 and 26. Capuchin Franciscan Father Vincent Fortunato will preach on God's unconditional love as demonstrated in the Prodigal Son. All invited.

CHARLOTTE — March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the St. Gabriel Church disability Ministry will honor those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities at the 5 p.m. Mass March 2. Parishioners and visitors with varying degrees of mental retardation and developmental disabilities will provide the music and serve as greeters, readers and ushers. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy at (704) 364-6964.

CHARLOTTE — The *rosary is prayed* every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. All are welcome. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Noted researcher Kevin Moran, will discuss the history and scientific scrutiny of the *Shroud of Turin* at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., March 5 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Moran is a parishioner of the church and member of the Shroud of Turin

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Lent means following Jesus, taking responsibility for sin, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To enter into Lent is to get serious about taking responsibility for one's own sinfulness and about following Jesus, especially in caring for the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Lent, the pope said, is "a time of particular commitment in the spiritual battle against the evil present in the world, in each of us and around us."

Pope Benedict spoke about the meaning of Lent at his Feb. 10 midday Angelus prayer, just a few hours before beginning a weeklong retreat. During the week, all papal audiences are canceled.

The pope said Lent is a time "to look evil in the face and prepare to battle against its effects and especially against its causes, to the point of the ultimate cause, which is Satan. It means not blaming the problem of evil on others, on society or on God, but recognizing one's own responsibility."

The only effective way to face sin

is to be serious about following Jesus, who conquered sin through his suffering, death and resurrection, the pope said.

"The way of the cross is, in fact, the only path that leads to the victory of love over hatred, sharing over selfishness, peace over violence," he said.

The pope had met Feb. 9 with members of the Italian federation of directors of retreats and spiritual exercises.

He said that while there are a growing number of initiatives that offer people a spiritual experience, not enough people take the multiple days necessary to enter into the deep silence and prayer, Scripture reading and spiritual direction that spiritual exercises offer.

Time, quiet and guidance are needed to help a person progress in the process of "the purification of heart, the conversion of life (and) the following of Christ," he said.

MURPHY — Rev. Ben Bushyhead of the Eastern Cherokee will lead the reflection at an *ecumenical Lenten service* 12-12:30 p.m. March 5 at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The service is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27, at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations from a variety of faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Pastor Steve Gerhard (Lutheran) will speak Feb. 20 and Rev. Tim Auman (United Methodist) will speak Feb. 27. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry Street, will host "More Than Silver or Gold," a Lenten/stewardship mission with Father Daniel Mahan of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Father Mahan will preach at the 5:30 p.m. Mass March 1 and 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses March 2. Father Mahan will also discuss how to grow closer to God, deepen bonds of communion and be more committed in God's work at 7-8 p.m. March 2, 3 and 4. No fee, all are welcome. To register for free child care, call (336) 996-5109 ext. 10.

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Jude DeAngelo speaks on "The Joys of the Sacrament of Reconciliation," the first in a series of workshops to assist in a better understanding and practice of Catholicism, 7 p.m. on Feb. 21 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [catholicnews@charlottediocese.org](mailto:catholicnews@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**Feb. 16 — 1 p.m.**  
Rite of Election  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

**Feb. 17 — 4 p.m.**  
Rite of Election  
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

**Feb. 22 — 10 a.m.**  
Finance Council meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**Feb. 23 — 7:15 a.m.**  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

## Vatican's U.N. rep says economic policies must protect the poor

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — As the world waits to see the extent of the global economic damage provoked by the U.S. mortgage crisis, national and international policies must protect low-income families and the working poor, said the Vatican's observer at the United Nations.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore spoke Feb. 7 at a meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the U.N. Commission for Social Development.

The archbishop said the cycle of economic growth and job creation followed by recession and job losses seems to be accelerating, straining individuals, governments and international economic partners that are not used to changing course quickly.

"At this very moment, with bated breath the world wonders where the ongoing financial woes provoked by the crisis in the real estate sector in some of the most developed economies would lead us," he said.

In the current crisis, the archbishop

said, the international community must find ways "to protect low-income families and workers from financial collapse."

"Assisting them is a question of justice and solidarity, but it is also a financially sound measure to stimulate national economies and international trade," he said.

Archbishop Migliore said it is the task of the U.N. commission to work to ensure that the world's biggest economic powers do not enact policies that help their economies recover while ignoring or damaging the economies of the world's poorest nations.

"The Holy See wishes to recall that the compelling needs of the poor have a priority claim on our conscience and on the choices financial leaders make," he said.

"Economic policies that help low-income working people live dignified, decent lives should be a priority of any good society worthy of the name," the archbishop said.

## New year celebration



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Parishioners prepare fruits, wine and flowers as symbols for an ancestral memorial following Mass during a celebration of the 2008 Chinese lunar new year at St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church in Chicago Feb. 10.

## Church's stolen statue of angel weighing 350 pounds is recovered

DETROIT (CNS) — Angels may have wings, but 350-pound angels are expected to stay put.

A bronze angel statue was returned to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in northeast Detroit Feb. 5 after having been missing for about a week and a half.

"Needless to say, we're happy to have it back," Father Ed Perrone, pastor.

The statue had been stolen from its place as part of a fountain in a floral garden in the parish cemetery at least as long ago as Jan. 25. Local TV stations and newspapers carried a story about it.

A member of the parish checked with area scrap metal dealers and found one that acknowledged having been offered

the statue. But guessing correctly that it was probably stolen, the dealer refused the statue but was unable to provide any clue as to what might have become of it.

Media coverage led to the statue's recovery, when someone called the parish to report having seen it in an alley about a half-mile away. The thieves had either abandoned it or at least parked it there while searching for a buyer.

Another person then volunteered to take a truck and work crew and haul it back to the church.

"So, it's back, perfectly intact. It's dirty, but there doesn't seem to be any damage to it," said Father Perrone, who will have the statue blessed again once it is reinstalled, given what it has been through.



## Overseas outreach

*Knights of Columbus recognized for helping evacuate family from Iraq*

CHARLOTTE — A U.S. flag that had flown in Baghdad is now in the care of local Knights of Columbus.

Jerry Senatore, a Knight of Columbus St. Matthew Council 10852, presented Grand Knight Richard White with the flag during a council meeting in Charlotte Jan. 27.

The flag had flown over the FBI's Baghdad operations center Sept. 11, 2007. It was presented in gratitude for the council's donations to help evacuate an Iraqi family to safety in Jordan in 2007.

"Above all else, the Knights of Columbus' number one mission is charity," said White. "We are honored and grateful to have been able to help this family in any small way possible."

Senatore, an FBI agent and training coordinator for the FBI Charlotte office, recently returned from his second rotation in Iraq.

There, he explained, his unit met an Iraqi widow and her two young children and nephew living in a mud-brick hut in a narrow strip of land between the Green Zone and the Tigris River, just outside the infamous Sadr City.

With violence mounting in the area, the unit determined the only viable solution was to evacuate them to a

refugee camp in Aman, Jordan. The unit worked for weeks to obtain the necessary clearances and raise funds for the family's transportation and expenses.

Senatore e-mailed members of his Knights council, who responded immediately. They wired the requested funds to Iraq.

At last report, the family was doing well in Jordan.

White said he and his fellow Knights were proud of Senatore's actions in Iraq.

"To hear Jerry speak of his mission in Iraq, the dedication of our troops and the hardships faced on a daily basis by them and the Iraqi people was truly awe inspiring," said White.

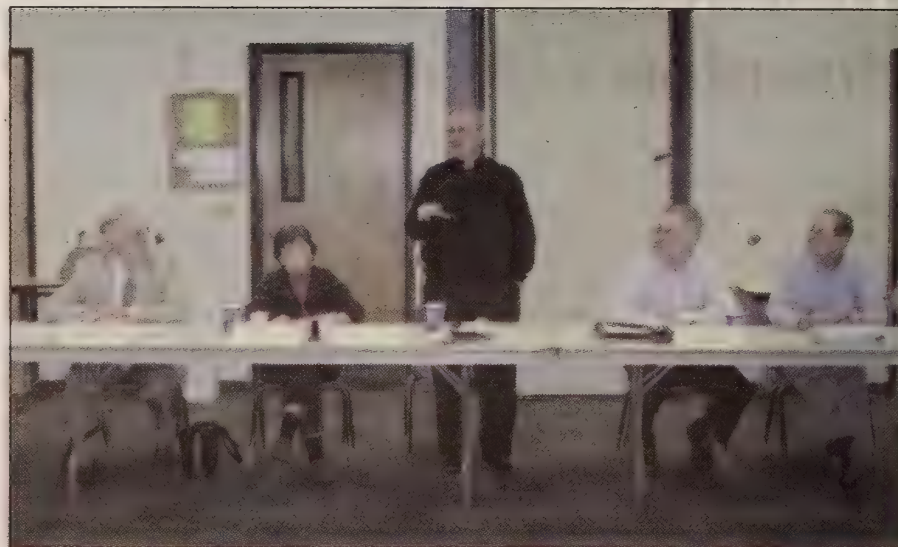
"It is good to know we have people like Jerry doing their best to assist our Armed Forces and at the same time providing voluntary humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council 10852, visit [www.kofc-stmatthew.org](http://www.kofc-stmatthew.org).

## Discussing stewardship



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Fred Werth, parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, discusses stewardship with 30 leaders of parish organizations during a meeting Jan. 29. The group planned for the new year and scheduled the parish's 2008 stewardship fair for May 17-18.

Pictured (from left): Ron Hoth; Ellen Tommasi; Father Werth; John Harrison, parish stewardship committee chairman; and Jerry Bryant.

Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. It involves intentional, planned and proportionate giving of one's time, talent and treasure.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

FBI training coordinator Jerry Senatore presents a U.S. flag to Grand Knight Richard White (right) during a meeting of Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council 10852 in Charlotte Jan. 27. Also pictured is Senatore's family (from left): wife, Michelle; son Michael; and daughters Samantha and Lindsey.

## BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS



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## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER - A CONTINUING SILENCE

**8 pm Friday, Mar. 7 - 3 pm Saturday, Mar. 8, 2008**

**8 pm Friday, May 30 - 3 pm Saturday, May 31, 2008**

A continuing community of prayer support gathers every quarter at the Oratory. All those interested in contemplation and quiet prayer are welcome.

We encourage Friday evening arrival for rest and calming quiet. Saturdays include early morning Taizé prayer and several sessions of silent contemplation. Schedule includes noon Eucharist and options for silence or talking during meals.

Joan Ricci of Winston-Salem has trained with Contemplative Outreach and helps guide these sessions.

Cost: \$35 Commuters  
\$65 Overnight



# New art goes up in downtown Charlotte church

PAINTING, from page 1

behind the altar.

"We are very pleased with it, and the people seem very pleased," said Father Joseph Sobierajski, pastor of St. Peter Church.

The painting by Texas artist John Collier was inspired from a scene in the Gospel of John and depicts Peter begging for forgiveness for his earlier denial of Jesus. Around them, fishermen pull their harvest from a river.

"We asked him to do something on John 21 because we feel that 'feed my lambs, feed my sheep' is the mission of our parish," said Father Sobierajski.

The painting blends traditional and modern elements. Father Sobierajski said the artwork has received positive responses from most who have seen it, but it has also invited some questions about its images and meaning.

Father Sobierajski sees that as a teaching moment.

"Overall, it's a very effective painting," he said.

Collier was one of 100 artists invited to submit proposals to replace the fresco.

"Overall, it's a very effective painting."

— Father Joseph Sobierajski

"We liked his concept. He has a good grasp of Catholic liturgy," said Father Sobierajski.

The award-winning Collier was chosen from more than 30 artists to be the chief sculptor for the Catholic memorial at Ground Zero. His work is permanently installed at St. Joseph's Chapel, adjacent to Ground Zero in New York.

Collier began his work in St. Peter Church two years ago. Soon, two reliefs — sculpted artworks with modeled forms projecting from a flat background — also crafted by Collier will be positioned on either side of the painting.

Once installed, the parish plans to officially dedicate the new artwork. Collier will be on hand to discuss his work.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A new painting in St. Peter Church in Charlotte, seen in this Feb. 11 photo, will soon be flanked by two reliefs — sculpted artworks with modeled forms projecting from a flat background.

## Fallen fresco

It was the morning of Feb. 20, 2002, one hour shy of midday Mass, when the fresco's central portion crashed down and left a parish community in mourning.

Father Sobierajski likened the fresco to "an old friend whom you see every time you come to church, and we are going to truly miss its presence."

Completed in 1989 by artist Ben Long, the fresco was painted directly into wet plaster on the church wall. It had

become "a landmark on the southern end of Tryon Street for visitors," said Father Sobierajski.

With scenes depicting Jesus' Agony in the Garden, the Resurrection of Christ, and Pentecost, the parish with its fresco provided a place of solace against the backdrop of the vibrant city streets.

Efforts were made to preserve the larger pieces of the fallen fresco. The cause of the fresco's collapse has never been determined.



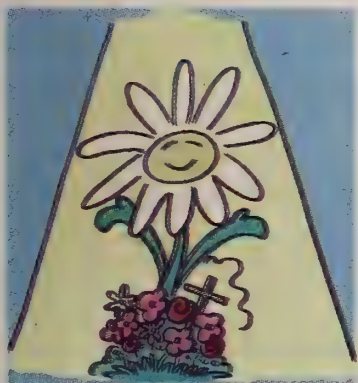
STAFF PHOTO

A portion of the fresco in St. Peter Church in Charlotte collapsed in February 2002.

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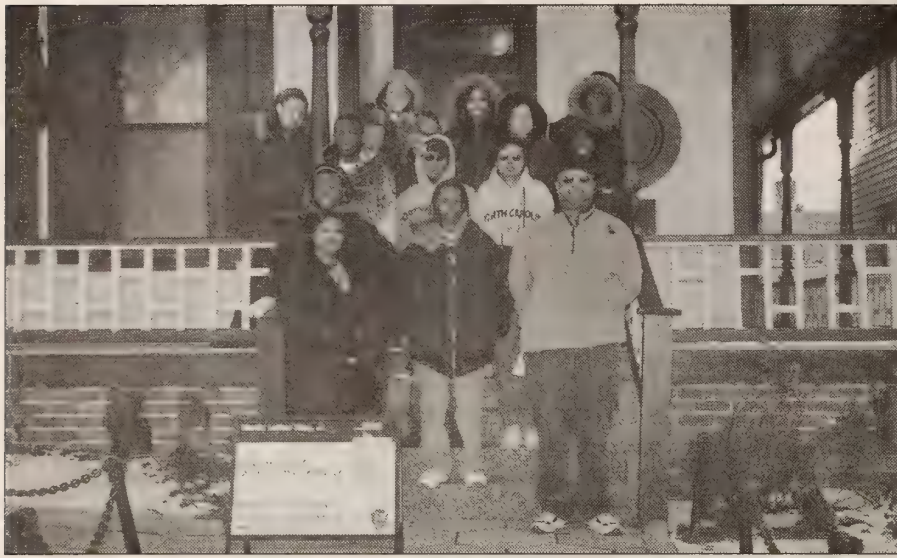
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## FROM THE COVER



COURTESY PHOTO BY SANDY MURDOCK

Deacon Stephen Pickett (front, right) of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir stands with Catholics from the Diocese of Charlotte at the birth home of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta Jan. 20.

## Catholics take part in annual Rev. King celebration

KING, from page 1

African American Affairs Ministry.

The Atlanta celebration, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Atlanta's Office for Black Catholic Ministry, was themed "Guide Our Feet into the Way of Peace."

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta said the theme reflects Catholics' duty to continue Rev. King's message of freedom and equality.

"This work is a pilgrimage, an ongoing procession, a march without end," said Archbishop Gregory. "Our duty is to deliver this message, suffused with the blood and sweat of all those who have labored for its ideal in the past, as a vital component in the aspirations of every succeeding generation."

Archbishop Gregory was the principal celebrant for the Mass honoring Rev. King's life and legacy in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Jan. 19.

"To make Dr. King's dream a reality, we must continue to strive for equality and justice, have faith in Jesus Christ, spread love among ourselves and forge beyond the bigotry and prejudices," said Murdock. "We must embrace the differences of the world with continued work for peace and goodwill."

On Jan. 20, the group visited the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. The site consists of several buildings surrounding Rev. King's boyhood home in Atlanta, including Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Rev. King pastored.

The group then visited Lyke House, the Catholic center at Atlanta University Center, a consortium that serves the city's historically black institutions.

It emphasizes Christianity's African roots. Mass in its 230-seat chapel starts with an African drum call. Its cruciform shape models one of the oldest Catholic churches in Africa.

"The Lyke House is a wonderful example of Catholic outreach totally encompassed in African and African-American symbolism and culture available to our college students through

campus ministry — a haven in the midst of the vast university system," said Murdock.

Murdock said she hoped those in the group would be "inspired to enhance their spiritual journeys through the experience of being with other black Catholics and black Catholic clergy." And, she said, that they recognized "we are unified in our struggles, our challenges and our accomplishments."



The African American Affairs Ministry is funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

## Living the legacy

Youth minister receives award for humanitarian efforts

HIGH POINT — Terril "Terry" Aiken's tireless work to bring people together has garnered him some profound recognition.

Aiken, youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, received the 2008 Humanitarian Award from the High Point Human Relations Commission. The award was presented during the commission's annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Andrews High School's auditorium Jan. 20.

Nine High Point high school students, including one in Aiken's youth ministry group, also received awards from the commission for their humanitarian efforts.

Aiken was nominated by parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and was one of 17 people nominated this year.

"I didn't know anything about it until they made the announcement," he said. "It's been pretty surreal and unbelievable."

The award recognizes local citizens who have continued Rev. King's legacy of quality and justice for all.

Paul Siceloff, commission chairman, said Aiken, had risen "above and beyond the call of duty" to "use his talents to make his church, community and world a better place for all people."

"My efforts have been to work to help bridge gaps in the community and to improve relations within the city," said Aiken, who views Rev. King's legacy as his inspiration.

Aiken works with hundreds of youths weekly, and assists locally with the

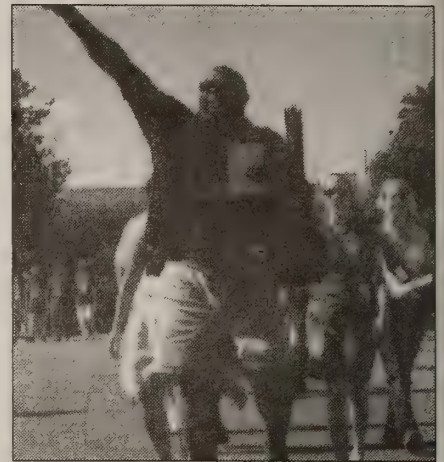


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Terry Aiken leads youths toward the 2002 World Youth Day events in Toronto, Canada.

National Conference on Community and Justice and nationally with projects such as World Youth Day and Alliance of Youth.

Michelle Murphy, a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church youth group, is following Aiken's example. A senior at High Point Central High School, Murphy also was recognized by the commission, which presents an award to a student from each high school in the city who best exemplifies the spirit of human relations.

Aiken believes everyone has an obligation to help others. "It's the work we all should be doing. We should be making a difference," he said.

The award, he said, will help open doors for him in his efforts.

"It will allow me to continue championing the legacy of Dr. King," he said.

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ...A SAINT FOR OUR TIMES

a one act performance by Adrian Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, OP  
Her portayal has as its biggest fan, brother Bill Murray, movie actor

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## In the spirit of Scouting



COURTESY PHOTO

Scouts were honored during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis on Scout Sunday, Feb. 3. Pictured: (front row, from left) Jeanine Ordoyne, assistant webelos I den leader, Pack 221; Treavor Frampton, Pack 108; Joshua Ordoyne, Pack 221; Seth Ingham, Pack 221; Steven Pecora, Pack 47; Justin Jarvis, Pack 47; Austin Phan, Pack 47; Kevin Phan, Troop 47; (back row, from left) Eagle Scout Joshua Devlin; Deacon Myles Decker; Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme, pastor; Joe Ordoyne, webelos I den leader, Pack 221.

## Scouts honored on Scout Sunday

KANNAPOLIS — Scouts of all ages were recently honored during Scout Sunday at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis Feb. 3.

With Deacon Myles Decker assisting, Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme celebrated the Mass at which Scouts and their leaders from Packs 221 and 47 were

recognized. Several Scouts brought up the offertory gifts.

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before Feb. 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday to recognize the contributions of the young people and adults of Scouting.

## Taking notes

### Workshop explores theory, history of music

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — From “do-re-mi” to Gregorian chants, the music recently studied at St. Barnabas Church in Arden was as diverse as those studying it.

Representatives from Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths met Jan. 26 for “Anatomy of Music,” a workshop presented by Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church.

The group consisted of choir members, instrumentalists and those who had little musical background but wanted to learn more about the components and history of music.

The workshop spanned from basic theory to musical notes and their value, meter, pitch, rhythm and key.

“Music is written to get to your emotion,” said Gallozzi.

“You don’t even have to understand it. Music should be a crossover between our tangible and intangible worlds,” she said.

Gallozzi shared her experience with liturgical music.

“Church music is supposed to stylistically focus on the Mass,” she said. “Mass music should focus on the Eucharist.”

New church music, she said, is to be written in a way that reflects the history of the Catholic Church.

Gallozzi said she wanted participants to understand the music and its history to perform and sing it better.

After some practice in the afternoon, both experienced and novice singers were able to come together in harmony.

Over the next few months, Gallozzi hopes to continue and hold workshops on meter, counting, rhythm and music appreciation.

St. Barnabas Church has several choirs, including one devoted to Gregorian chant, which was the mainstay of liturgical music in the Latin Church from the ninth century to the middle of the 20th century.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, leads the “Anatomy of Music” workshop at the church Jan. 26.

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Wake Forest University's Catholic Campus Minister  
as he shares with us

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A painting, as seen in this Feb. 10 photograph, shows Mary with St. Bernadette. It hangs in the entrance of a center for hospitality operated by Italian Catholics in Lourdes, France.

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

## Lourdes bishop says Mary sought devotion to Jesus

LOURDES, from page 1

Lourdes, a statue of Mary stands on the right side and the altar for the Eucharist is at the center, he said, because the Eucharist is the center of devotion.

"The mission of Lourdes is to be a school of prayer, a place where it is easy, natural to pray," said Bishop Perrier.

Mary brought St. Bernadette to Jesus, said the bishop, noting that during the apparitions Mary was preparing the young St. Bernadette to receive her first Communion.

St. Bernadette initially was not allowed to receive her first Communion because she did not know her catechism well enough. The book was in French and St. Bernadette spoke the local dialect only.

However, St. Bernadette finally received the sacrament between the 17th and 18th apparitions.

The Lourdes jubilee year — which began Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and runs until this Dec. 8 — marks the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Bernadette.

Welcoming the estimated 50,000 pilgrims, Bishop Perrier said that no one is excluded at Lourdes.

He said the Jubilee Way, the special anniversary pilgrimage in Lourdes of sites related to St. Bernadette's life, begins at the parish church, where St. Bernadette was baptized, and ends where St. Bernadette received her first Communion.

All of the Jubilee Way is in preparation for the Eucharist, said Bishop Perrier, who, like the tens of thousands of pilgrims thronging the streets of Lourdes for the feast day, wore a souvenir medallion marking his participation in the Jubilee Way pilgrimage.

The bishop said that when Mary appeared to St. Bernadette, Mary was

smiling and laughing. Lourdes is a place of happiness and confidence, but also of penance and a difficult stage of conversion, he said.

Among the crowd at Mass was Anne Bisschop, 20, who was with a group of 200 youths from the international Community of the Cenacle.

The community provides care for young men and women from around the world who are suffering from drug addictions, depression, eating disorders and "people who need a new experience," said Bisschop, from Belgium, who voluntarily entered the community with a drug addiction five months ago.

Bisschop told Catholic News Service the community is "a school for life" that changes "our life with our religion."

On the outskirts of the Mass grounds, Sinead Boyle of Louth, Ireland, stood with her father on the lines for the baths, the waters of Lourdes said to give strength and healing.

She told CNS that she went to the baths the day before, but was willing to wait in line for at least the three hours until the baths opened to submerge in the chilly waters again.

Father Niall O'Leary of Holy Family Parish in Pasadena, Calif., was walking through the crowds of pilgrims leaving Mass and wishing "Happy feast day" to one another.

The priest was carrying the Eucharist from the Mass to give to a 93-year-old man who was too sick to attend. Father O'Leary told CNS the man's 19-year-old granddaughter brought him to Lourdes to participate in a 50-member pilgrimage from southern California.

Meanwhile, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Feb. 10 Angelus address at the Vatican that the message of Lourdes reminds the faithful to pray and do penance.

The pope said he promised to pray for all sick people during his annual Lenten retreat, which began the evening of Feb. 10.

## Poverty, humility defined life of St. Bernadette Soubirous

LOURDES, France (CNS) — St. Bernadette Soubirous was 14 years old, poor, illiterate and did not know the catechism enough to make her first Communion when Mary appeared to her in the grotto at Lourdes.

Though St. Bernadette lived in poverty, she was born into a family with comfortable means.

Her mother, Louise, and father, Francois, took ownership of her grandfather's mill outside Lourdes, a small town of about 4,000 people in the Pyrenees Mountains.

The family was living comfortably when St. Bernadette was born in the Boly Mill Jan. 7, 1844. She was the first of nine children.

But times got bad for the family. In April 1845, St. Bernadette's younger brother died. He was the first of five of the family's children who would die in childhood. Three years later, St. Bernadette's father lost his eye in a work accident. Eventually, the family lost the mill and their money due to poor business decisions.

By 1854 Francois Soubirous was a day laborer and Louise Soubirous was working, but the money was not enough. They gave up St. Bernadette, first as a servant to her aunt, then to help on a farm outside Lourdes.

In 1857, the family could no longer pay rent and sought shelter from one of Louise's cousins, who offered the bottom floor of his house — a former town jail, or a cachot. That same year, St. Bernadette's father was falsely accused of stealing and was imprisoned.

St. Bernadette returned to Lourdes



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTO VIRON


Bernadette Soubirous sits for a portrait taken in Lourdes, France, shortly before she left for the convent in Nevers in 1866. The image was taken by a photographer whose family still operates a photography business and shop just outside the gates of the Lourdes sanctuary.

for catechism classes in 1858. On Feb. 11 that year, St. Bernadette, her sister and a friend went looking for wood. As she was taking off her stockings and shoes to cross a canal, she heard a gust of wind and saw a young woman dressed in white. That was the first of 18 Marian apparitions.

But St. Bernadette shunned the attention that followed. She sought seclusion and entered religious life with the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction at Nevers, France.

She remained hidden from the world and died in 1879 of tuberculosis of the bone. She was canonized in 1933.




Her body is incorrupt and venerated at the altar of the Nevers convent.



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## Honoring Our Lady of Lourdes



COURTESY PHOTO BY WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, incenses the altar and a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes during a prayer service Feb. 9. The prayer service was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes, France, and to give participants the plenary indulgence authorized by Pope Benedict XVI to encourage renewed holiness and devotion.

A plenary indulgence is the remission of all punishment. Catholics can receive the plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, according to U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with indulgences and matters of conscience.



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## Each year, millions flock to Lourdes seeking physical, spiritual help

BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOURDES, France — Every year, more than 6 million people — including about 500,000 American Catholics — travel to Lourdes, ask for healing and forgiveness, and often leave with a bottle of holy water.

But without the spiritual and historical context, such journeys and their traditions can seem odd.

Pilgrimages are as old as worship, according to Ann Ball, author of the "Encyclopedia of Catholic Devotions and Practices." Prehistoric man felt the need to visit where his gods lived, the early Christians felt the need to visit where Jesus lived and the tradition continued, Ball said in the book.

Father Jeffrey Keefe, spiritual director of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, told Catholic News Service people participate in such pilgrimages because of a special devotion to Mary, and they often take a problem — physical, spiritual or with relationships — and offer it up to God at places "known to have good effects."

The New York-based Catholic organization recruits and organizes English-speaking volunteers and pilgrims for trips to the famous Lourdes' grotto, where Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous 150 years ago.

The 13th time Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Mary asked her to tell the priests that people should come to Lourdes and that a chapel should be built.

The first Marian procession took place May 12, 1858, and construction of the chapel began in 1862, the year the local bishop recognized the authenticity of the apparitions.

In 1866, two years after the first local pilgrimage from Loubajac, France, a railway was built connecting Lourdes to the rest of the country. In 1874, the first international pilgrims arrived from Belgium.

Today, people come from around the world to pray at the sanctuaries and visit the important sites related to St. Bernadette's life and her 18 Marian apparitions. And many pilgrims also take home a bottle of water from the Massabielle grotto, where Mary showed St. Bernadette a muddy spring and asked her to drink from it.

Lourdes is also a place where the sick and disabled visit to be healed. Sick pilgrims can stay at Accueil Notre-Dame, a sort of hotel-hospital, where each bed has an alarm bell and each unit has a doctor on call.

The Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes are nestled within the city. The churches are carved out of the Pyrenees Mountains, stacked above and below the grotto like a sandwich.

Outside St. Michael's Gate — the pathway connecting the sanctuaries to the rest of the city — narrow, winding streets are filled with shops selling Catholic trinkets.

Although Mary did not specifically tell St. Bernadette in the apparitions to welcome the sick to Lourdes, the city has become a center for those seeking physical and mental healing as well as spiritual growth.

Marked by painted handicap signs on the pavement, lanes designated solely for those in wheelchairs line a pilgrim-packed narrow street around the city.

Several pilgrims said Feb. 10 that in the busy summer season, the streets are filled with people in wheelchairs and on stretchers as they are guided by volunteers to the important sites connected to St. Bernadette.

In the late-evening hours, tens of thousands of people from around the world throng the sanctuaries with candles in hand for the rosary procession. The people slowly snake around the Marian churches, illuminating the sanctuaries with flickering light.

The Catholic Church recognizes as miracles 67 cures attributed to Mary's intercession at Lourdes. Father Keefe said there are probably thousands more.

But the most important miracles of Lourdes are the growth and spiritual changes people have there, Father Keefe told CNS.

This year is particularly important as Catholics around the world celebrate Lourdes' jubilee year, which began Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and runs until this Dec. 8.

Different events — such as a joint Catholic-Anglican pilgrimage — are planned for the year, and Pope Benedict XVI authorized a plenary indulgence, the remission of all punishment, to encourage renewed devotion.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Pilgrims gather for a Mass in the grotto of the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France, Feb. 10.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Three worthy volumes offer spiritual fare for retreats or daily life

REVIEWED BY MITCH FINLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Double-dog dare you to read the long first paragraph of Barbara Beckwith's "Joan of Arc: God's Warrior — A Seven-Day Retreat," based on the famous French saint, and be able to put it down.

Here it is:

"Joan of Arc continues to fascinate us centuries after her life and death. She is a bundle of contradictions: simple yet sublime, an illiterate peasant who held at bay the powerful and learned, a mystic whose earthy response to her visions was to inspire an army, a girl soldier who remained a virgin, a feminist long before the women's movement, a political prisoner who remained resolute yet wavered at critical times, a fiercely independent pawn of historical forces beyond her control, a glorious military hero who ended up a failure, betrayed by her friends and burned at the stake by her enemies."

Author Beckwith, managing editor of St. Anthony Messenger magazine, guides the reader through seven days with St. Joan (1412-1431), each day with its own theme. These include "Listening to Mystical Voices," "Expanding Gender Roles," "Trusting in God" and "Battling the Church."

Each "day" includes meditations and prayers on the theme for the day, drawing on secondary sources about St. Joan of Arc. Enriching the content of the book are the author's many visits to sites in France associated with her subject.

This is a book that will lend itself beautifully to any actual retreat, of course. But anyone willing to set aside 30 minutes for seven days will find that this book will give his or her faith and spirituality an invigorating shot in the arm.

Of course, anyone is free to simply read Beckwith's book, and such readers may find themselves wanting to read it more than once. It's an ideal book for reading groups and book clubs, as well.

Similarly, in his "St. Paul: Called to Conversion — A Seven-Day Retreat," Sulpician Father Ronald Witherup provides seven days' worth of material that focuses on Paul as a guide in the ongoing conversion that lies at the center of the Christian life.

Following an excellent introduction to Paul and his writings, the material for each day includes reflections, prayers and excerpts from the Pauline texts.

Father Witherup is provincial superior of the U.S. province of the Society of St. Sulpice, and formerly he was a professor of sacred Scripture and academic dean at St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif.

His obvious skills include, however, an ability to discuss the writings of St. Paul in ways that the average reader will appreciate.

This isn't a Scripture study resource, of course, but rather a book to use in retreat and other spiritual enrichment contexts.



One of the fine things about a book such as this one is that it presents its material in ways that bring together the insights of Scripture studies and uses them to nourish in the reader a spirit of prayerfulness. This is a book that anyone will appreciate who wants to both understand St. Paul better and nourish his or her spirituality.

Most who make retreats at Trappist monasteries come away from the experience with more than enough in heart and mind to write a book, if they were of a mind to do so.

C. William Claassen, author of "Another World: A Retreat in the Ozarks," was of a mind to do so, and the result is a book that both Catholics and those otherwise oriented will appreciate and enjoy.

Claassen, apparently a spiritual seeker for many years, spent retreat time at Assumption Abbey, one of the most remote Trappist monasteries in the United States, located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri.

Chronicling the daily life of the monastery, and adding his own observations and reflections, Claassen also shares with the reader the results of interviews he conducted with individual monks.

"Another World" is, among the countless books published each year, a standout volume, a wonderful book that deserves countless readers.



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## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 24, 2008

### Feb. 24, Third Sunday of Lent

#### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Exodus 17:3-7
- 2) Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
- Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
- Gospel: John 4:5-42

### Encounters with Jesus reveal much about ourselves

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was 26 when my mother died after a two-year battle with cancer. This event in my young life was traumatic, to say the least, but it was not marked with tears.

This surprised me. When she was diagnosed I was sad but didn't cry; I chalked that up to hoping for the best. I figured I would cry if things got worse.

In time, things got worse, and still I did not cry. This time I brushed it off saying I would cry at the funeral. The funeral came and went and still no tears flowed.

Though I was young and a man, I figured it was OK to cry at my mother's funeral, and the fact that I did not caused me to worry. I sought help from a counselor.

My experience in counseling was the second most important event in my life besides my conversion to Jesus. With the help of my counselor, I discovered that my emotions had been buried.

Week after week they were slowly excavated, and soon a more whole me was revealed, a person with a shelf full of wide-ranging emotions, not just humor and anger.

Lent is a time of discovery, renewal, sacrifice, sorrow and most of all healing. Healing waters await the catechumenate at the Easter Vigil, and the waters of our baptism continue to penetrate our lives, gradually weathering away all the sin that covers our true selves.

It is such a moment that finds Jesus at Jacob's well giving living water to the Samaritan woman.

True to form, Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter and reaches into the deepest recesses of the woman, revealing past hurt and the effects that linger still.

Instead of condemnation, Jesus offers healing. Instead of death, he offers life in the form of living water.

Through my counselor, Jesus told me everything I needed to hear, and this gave birth to a well of tears, living water that still flows today. Yet I know Jesus has more for me.

So I stand next to the woman at the well saying "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty."

#### Questions:

How has the living water of Jesus quenched your thirst? What have your encounters with Jesus revealed about you?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 17-23

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; Monday (Lenten Weekday), Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; Thursday (St. Peter Damian), Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; Friday (Chair of St. Peter, Apostle), 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; Saturday (St. Polycarp), Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 24-MARCH 1

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; Monday (Lenten Weekday), 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.

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# Welcome to Catholic-Tube

*Streaming video on Internet seen as new way to spread Gospel*

BY FRANZ KLEIN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LA CROSSE, Wis. — First there was YouTube. Then there was GodTube. Now there's Catholic-Tube.

Streaming video is all the rage on the Internet, and some people are starting to realize how valuable a tool this technology can be in reaching out to young Catholics.

If St. Augustine were alive today, he "would have done his 'Confessions' in video and streamed it on the Internet," said Travis Boudreaux, the tech-savvy Louisiana Catholic who founded Catholic-Tube.com several months ago.

On his Catholic-Tube blog, Boudreaux posts daily some of what he considers the best Catholic videos and podcasts uploaded to major sites such as YouTube.com and GodTube.com, as well as smaller Catholic operations such as LoveToBeCatholic.com and SQPN.com.

A veteran Web watcher, Boudreaux believes that video is the future of the Internet.

"There will always be room for audio and the written word, but video provides a dynamic that's not there otherwise," he said.

"Imagine if you could see St. Augustine's emotion. There's so much that's lost without voice inflection and hand gestures," he said.

YouTube.com was created in 2005 and was bought by Google Inc. in October 2006. According to Alexa.com's statistical analysis, YouTube is currently the third most frequented Web site on the Internet.

On YouTube, users can upload, view and share music videos and television clips, as well as video content of their own creation. More than 65 million videos have been uploaded to date.

While no pornographic or nude videos are permitted, YouTube relies on its community of viewers to identify and flag such uploads, meaning there is a definite time lag before they come down.

A quick search of YouTube's contents for "Christian" will return a staggering 329,000-plus videos, while a search for "Catholic" will yield 21,000-plus results.

Several bishops use the site, including Philadelphia's Cardinal Justin Rigali, who posted a series of reflections, and Toronto Archbishop Thomas Collins, whose monthly "Lectio Divina" meditations have been



PHOTO BY CNS

Travis Boudreaux, the tech-savvy Louisiana Catholic who founded Catholic-Tube.com, posts daily some of what he considers the best Catholic videos and podcasts uploaded to major sites such as YouTube.com and GodTube.com, as well as those from smaller operations such as LoveToBeCatholic.com. Pictured is a screen grab from the LoveToBeCatholic home page.

watched by thousands of viewers.

But nearly half of the videos on the first page of search results for "Christianity" portray the faith in a negative light.

And while a search for "Catholic" will yield an inspirational video by "KaterinaMarie" called "Why I am Catholic," and a clip of a Mass with Bishop Fulton Sheen in 1941 among its initial results, there's also a video parodying the church sex abuse scandals, as well as many others that are anti-Catholic or contain salacious material.

"That's why we believe biblical topics need to be discussed in a forum that is respectful of the Word," said GodTube.com co-founder and chief executive officer Chris Wyatt.

With its first version launched last January, GodTube's quick growth has been phenomenal.

The site, which recently added an alternative to the secular networking site Facebook.com, already contains more than 48,000 videos.

Wyatt said the site logged more than 10 million visitors by the end of 2007.

But accusations of anti-Catholicism have plagued GodTube, as some users have posted videos that try to discredit the church's teaching on the priesthood, the sacraments, the papacy and other things.

Wyatt, a Baptist, said anti-Catholicism would not be tolerated.

"We don't stand for that," he said, although he admitted there were some anti-Catholic videos on the site until a recent string of articles brought them to the company's attention.

Even with these videos removed, clips claiming to discredit elements of Catholic teaching remain on the site,

including a John MacArthur lecture series on "The Pope and the Papacy."

Thomas Hall, founder of LoveToBeCatholic.com, believes he has come up with a better alternative.

"About a month ago, I typed 'Catholic' in on YouTube, and six of the first 10 responses were anti-Catholic propaganda," said Hall.

"I felt Catholics needed an equal voice and a safe environment to learn about their faith and to evangelize," he said.

With a background including Web work with Fortune 500 companies, Hall, who just moved from Chicago with his family to Minneapolis, naturally turned to the Internet.

At the end of October, he launched LoveToBeCatholic.com as a test. Like YouTube and GodTube, LoveToBeCatholic is a Web platform for people to post videos.

But unlike them, LoveToBeCatholic is specifically Catholic, and Hall works to ensure that nothing anti-Catholic gets posted.

Hall said the online Catholic community has embraced his site.

"In the first month I went from zero to 3,000 visitors per day," he said.

"I immediately ran into bandwidth problems. I've had to upgrade the servers twice, and I'll have to do that again this year. But that's a really nice problem to have," he said.

Videos range from priests' sermons to humorous skits and church events.

Some of Hall's favorites are vocations videos that show young religious in habits engaged in sports or other activities with youths.

"You can't capture that in text or audio," he said.

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**SANKOFA**



# Breaking down marriage

## Bishops' survey looks at U.S. Catholics practices, views on marriage

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Although nearly three-quarters of American Catholics say they are somewhat or very familiar with church teachings on marriage, many mistakenly believe that a non-Catholic spouse must promise to raise the couple's children as Catholic and that church teaching accepts divorce in cases of marital infidelity.

Those were among the results of a nationwide survey commissioned in April 2007 by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family Life on U.S. Catholic attitudes and practices regarding marriage.

The survey was carried out in June 2007 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University via the Internet polling firm Knowledge Networks and was made public Feb. 11.

"This is the first time that such a varied and comprehensive body of data about Catholic patterns in marriage has been collected and analyzed," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. He is chairman of what is now the bishops' Subcommittee on Marriage and Family Life of the newly renamed Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

"The study establishes a needed base line of demographic information about the marital status and related characteristics of adult Catholics across a generational timeline," he added in a statement released with the 250-page survey report.

The margin of error for the survey of 1,008 self-identified Catholics 18 or older was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

The report said marriage patterns among U.S. Catholics were similar to those for all Americans, with 53 percent of Catholics married, 25 percent never married, 12 percent divorced, 5 percent widowed, 4 percent living with a partner and 1 percent separated.

Including those who have remarried,

23 percent of American Catholics have been divorced at some time.

Among those currently married, nearly a third (30 percent) had not been married in the church or had their marriage "convalidated," or formally blessed by the church. For those who were separated or divorced at the time of the survey, more than half (51 percent) said they had not been married in the church or had their marriage convalidated.

Of those divorced, 85 percent had not sought an annulment and another 8 percent had asked for an annulment but it was not granted. An annulment had been granted to only 7 percent of the divorced Catholics surveyed.

Asked whether they had heard a variety of statements presented as a teaching of the Catholic Church on marriage, a majority of all respondents said they had heard that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament, that openness to children is essential to marriage, that the church does not consider a second marriage after civil divorce to be valid and that marriage is good for the community as well as for the individual couple.

But nearly six in 10 (59 percent) also had heard that a non-Catholic spouse must promise that the couple's children will be raised Catholic, an inaccurate statement.

Similar percentages of those who had heard that a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian is a sacrament and that church teaching "is accepting of divorce in cases of marital infidelity" believed that those false statements were true church teachings.

Asked for their views on the general acceptability of divorce, more than three-quarters of U.S. Catholics (76 percent) said it was "acceptable in some cases" and another 17 percent said it was "acceptable in all cases." Only 7 percent said divorce was "not acceptable in any case."

When they were asked about whether divorce was acceptable in specific circumstances, 96 percent said it was in cases of physical abuse, 92 percent said

yes when there was emotional abuse and 85 percent said it was acceptable when there was infidelity.

The report divided respondents into four generational groups: pre-Second Vatican Council generation, ages 65 and over in 2007, who made up 19 percent of the respondents; Vatican II generation, ages 47-64, 31 percent; post-Vatican II generation, ages 26-46, 40 percent; and millennial generation, ages 18-25, 10 percent.

"Agreement with church teachings is ... often relatively high among the oldest Catholics. ... To a lesser extent this is also true of the millennial generation," the report said. "Agreement with church teaching is sometimes lowest among the generation of Catholics who came of age during the changes associated with Vatican II and among post-Vatican II generation Catholics."

The report also found that frequency of Mass attendance served as "a strong indicator of the general importance of Catholicism in a person's life and his or her level of commitment to living out the faith. Those who attend Mass every week are six times as likely as those who rarely or never attend to report that their view of marriage has been 'very' informed by their Catholic faith."

"They are also more than two and a half times as likely to describe themselves as 'very' familiar with church teaching on marriage," it said.

The survey also explored such topics

as what kind of marriage preparation couples received and how valuable they found it, whether couples contemplating divorce requested or received assistance from anyone in the church, what kind of information they would like to receive about marriage and its challenges, and what values they think help sustain a marriage.

"Not surprisingly, the study paints a mixed picture," Archbishop Kurtz said. "It gives us reasons to be grateful and hopeful. It also raises concerns and presents us with challenges."

Although many couples find value in marriage preparation courses, "it is sobering to note that relatively few Catholics seem willing to seek church-sponsored help for difficulties once they are married," he added. "We must find ways to offer couples a more integrated, continuous and varied ministry that will help them grow in happiness and holiness through the entire life cycle of a marriage."

The archbishop also expressed concern that 41 percent of younger Catholics were choosing to marry outside the church and that "more than half of unmarried young Catholic adults do not consider it important to be married in the church."

The survey was commissioned as part of the bishops' National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, which the bishops launched in 2004 to call attention to the value of married life.

### Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [frajm@st-joseph.com](mailto:frajm@st-joseph.com)

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Clergy cookies



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, hands out cookies at lunch on Student Appreciation Day at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Feb. 1. The event was part of the Catholic Schools Week celebration, during which students created banners to reflect the "Be Kinder than Necessary" campaign theme.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Morales (left), Our Lady of the Assumption School coach; Janice Ritter (second from left), assistant superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; Allana Ramkissoon, Our Lady of the Assumption School assistant principal; and Kim Dandurand, St. Patrick School coach, are pictured with Catholic students after the Academic Games Jan. 26.

## MACS students compete in Academic Games

CHARLOTTE — Students from Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Patrick schools in Charlotte recently participated in the Mecklenburg Area Academic Games competition.

The competition, sponsored by the Academic Games Leagues of America, was hosted at Our Lady of the Assumption School Jan. 26.

Forty Catholic students comprising the MACS (Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools) team competed against players from Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy on presidential facts and propaganda techniques used by politicians, media and advertisers.

The MACS team took first place and will compete in the national Academic Games competition in Orlando, Fla., in April.

Academic Games Leagues of America is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to encourage and conduct academic games competition at local and national levels.

There are currently state chapters in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Another Mecklenburg area competition on equations will be held in March.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray at (704) 370-3334 or kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A look at Lent

*A general introduction to the season*

\* Lent is the season the Catholic Church gives us to take stock and review our lives, to root out all that is not good and true and replace it with the faithful and the holy.

In these 40 days, the Catholic Church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in the year 2007 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forbearers.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God, which no worldly thing can satisfy. Almsgiving reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inextricably intertwined, and that we bear responsibility for each other. Prayer reminds us to center our lives on God who alone gives meaning to all we do.

Lent is a most special time. The liturgies and devotions of Lent call us to a kind of spiritual "spring cleaning," identifying relationships that are disordered and sins that imprison and then seeking forgiveness and healing.

We root out the darkness of sin so as to enter the Easter mysteries with a clean heart bathed in the healing, life-giving light of Christ.

### Guidelines for Lent

1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2) Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, and Good Friday, March 21, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3) The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal.

Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4) Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock soups or gravies.

The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5) The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining.

The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6) Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.

The 1983 war and peace pastoral letter of the U.S. bishops, stating that



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERIDAN, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7) Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8) The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter.

Group reconciliation services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group reconciliation service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9) The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

10) Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11) The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The rite of election is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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## Inside look at the 'tool of faith'

*Blessings and curses going hand in hand with Catholic media*

Catholic media enjoy many blessings but suffer from many curses.

February is Catholic Press Month, an opportunity to consider the role of media and Catholics. While I've always been partial to newspapers, "media" these days must also include Catholic radio, TV and other avenues of proclaiming the Gospel. (After all, remember that "Gospel" means "good news.")

So, if you're reading this, God bless you.

Catholic media share much with their secular brethren, competing for the same readers, for the same advertising dollar, for the same opportunity to make their point in the mass market. (That's mass with a lowercase "m.")

That's one of the curses.

But unlike secular media, which often seem to exist to make noise and a profit, Catholic media exist to make a point and a difference. That's a blessing. (OK, there's "prophet," too, though that's probably stretching the pun.)

True, some secular publications don't fit that mold, and some Catholic ones — probably too many — are judged more by their balance sheets than by their content. Still, the comparison is valid.

Like secular journalists, their Catholic counterparts get a kick out of what they do. When I labored at the Chicago Sun-Times, I enjoyed watching anonymously as fellow commuters paused over something I wrote.

Later, as editor of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic New World, I smiled when I saw a young woman on my bus pore over the current issue.

One big curse is that people often let secular media define the church.

Secular media can be a great ally to the church. However, they cannot always be counted on to understand faith, especially when being outrageous gains more notice than being truthful.

A few years ago, a Chicago daily reported — on the front page no less — that Cardinal Francis E. George "sanctified" and blessed a high-end car showroom. The article was correct.

However, at best it came across as tongue-in-cheek; at worst it was snide.

No matter that there's a grand tradition of blessing homes, people and even places of business. There are worse things than acknowledging the presence of God in everyday life.

The church ministers daily to the world's hurts and pains. Its work among the poor, its efforts to keep inner-city schools open and its many calls for justice often go unnoted by the secular media.

But blessing a business — even a generous business whose donations help support the church and its works — that becomes Page One news?

Such dismissive reporting can diminish the church.

### Guest Column

TOM  
SHERIDAN  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Without Catholic media, expecting Catholics to understand what's happening in the church or what the church is saying is, frankly, foolish.

The clergy sex abuse crisis has also taken its toll on the church's reputation. Yes, secular media took the lead in exposing, though sometimes sensationalizing, the problem. However, many Catholic publications did a credible job of reporting it, warts and all.

The church is working to repair its battered public face, though you'll read about that more in church media than in secular. That, sadly, is often dismissed as "cheerleading."

But Catholic media must be more than just cheerleaders; they must offer perspectives not available elsewhere.

Sometimes, though, that "church perspective" becomes yet another curse rather than the blessing it ought to be. Many Catholics aren't pleased with church positions on war, poverty, immigration and even the death penalty.

Others balk at the renewal of the Latin Mass and similar traditions, taking it out on the church's media.

In his Jan. 24 message for World Communications Day (May 4), Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged that secular media's "meteoric technical evolution" gives them the potential for more blessings and curses.

He encouraged secular media to cease being proponents of manipulation and instead press for justice by espousing information based in truth.

The challenge for Catholic media is much the same, though one would think it at least has a head start. That, surely, is a blessing.

Here's a comparison which might help explain the value of Catholic media, especially this month. The Wall Street Journal, that most secular of newspapers, once turned a slur from a Soviet leader into a slogan: "Capitalist tool."

If the worst that can be said about Catholic media is that they are a "tool of faith," I'll take it.

And if you're reading this in a Catholic publication, you deserve blessings, too.

Sheridan is a former editor of The Catholic New World, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and a deacon ordained for the Diocese of Joliet, Ill.



# People still ask why God allows so much suffering

*Trust and belief in Lord shall provide comfort*

Rosa Baines of Edmonton, Canada, recently wrote, "I have at times wondered whether God allows sorrow and pain into our lives so that we can truly appreciate the times of happiness and joy ... a sunrise or sunset, birds soaring, flowers blooming, celebrating Christmas with family and friends, watching children play."

Pain is often unavoidable, but our understanding of it can make a big difference in the way we deal with it.

Here are some things to consider when times of pain come upon you:

God sends friends to console us.

First lady Bess Truman suffered a terrible shock when she was 18 — her father committed suicide. It was an unbearable loss.

Her friend Mary Paxton heard the news and came over right away to be with her in her hour of need. Bess cried for hours, and Mary listened quietly, consoling her.

Years later, when Truman was living in the White House, she looked back and said, "Mary's loving presence was exactly what I needed at that terrible time."

God is like a good friend who sits silently at your side when you're most

in need. Believe and it shall be done unto you.

"The Lord is with us, protecting us, and leading us to future joy. He who will be our bliss when we are in heaven is our protection while we are here on our way. Let us flee to the Lord, and we shall be comforted" (Blessed Julian of Norwich).

Trust is the answer.

When we go through unbearable suffering in life, it causes us to lose our bearings.

If that ever happens to you, try to remember that you are never alone.

Jesus said, "Fear is useless, what you need is trust."

Jesus knew there would be times when we wouldn't be able to free ourselves from suffering. At those times he asks us to look upon him on the cross and trust his love.

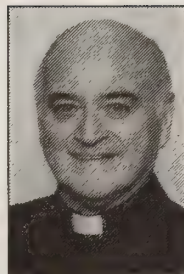
He came to enter our pain and ease it with his love.

"Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day.

"Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



imaginings" (St. Francis de Sales).

Behold the face of God. See God's face in the beauty of nature; for instance, a sunset is God's way of saying, "I love you."

"The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy" (Henry Ward Beecher).

C. S. Lewis wrote, "We do not merely want to see beauty, ... we want to be united with the beauty we see, and pass into it, and receive it into ourselves, and become part of it."

Beauty invites us to experience the bliss of union with God.

We really don't understand why God allows so much suffering in our world, but we do know, through faith, that he sent his only begotten Son to be near us at those times and to lead us safely home.

"Christ came to bring joy; joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and friends, joy to the sick and elderly, indeed joy to all humanity" (Pope John Paul II).

## The difference between civility and incivility

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



After a heated debate between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, I began to wonder if the line between civility and incivility had been crossed because of the vicious way each was out to trip up the other.

Ironically, two days after the debate the church looked at the Gospel of the man with the withered hand asking Christ to heal him. The Pharisees, looking for an opportunity to trip him up, watch closely to see if Christ will heal on the Sabbath. When he does, they feel they now have a right to bring him down.

The word "civility" is related to the word "home." At first reflection this doesn't seem to make sense. What does home have to do with civility? On further reflection, it has much to do with it.

To be civil is to make another feel at home. In the Gospel, the Pharisees should have recognized Christ's goodness and made him feel at home, but because their hearts are hardened they don't.

Interestingly, in the same Gospel, we have a beautiful lesson on what it means to actually make another feel at home. Christ cures the withered hand. A word closely related to cure is "care," and care means to attend to another.

When we think of feeling at home, isn't it true that we think of parents and friends who attended to our needs; who left us free to express ourselves without worrying about eating our words? To feel at home is to feel supported and free to be one's self.

In the psalms, the new Jerusalem that represents heavenly bliss on earth is pictured as a place where grain, oil and wine are abundant, and people are freely and openly enjoying each other's company. It is a picture of civility par excellence.

It would be naive to think that heated debates shouldn't exist. When, however, do they cross the line and become uncivil? Isn't it when we no longer feel at home with the debaters because they mirror the Pharisees out to get the other to the point that caring for others is overshadowed by a ring of selfish ambition?

Some may argue that heated debates are about caring and self-assertion, and it isn't nasty to tear apart another who is seemingly using the wrong approach in accomplishing this, that appearing strong and well-informed justifies the means.

If, as some observe, there is unease with the behavior of certain candidates, could it be the line between civility and incivility is being crossed?

In the end, the next president should be elected on his or her ability to be a respected, true statesperson with whom we truly feel at home because of his or her Christ-like caring.

## Finding faithful solutions Invoking Archbishop Romero in pursuit of peace and justice

On March 14 there will be a lecture in Camden, N.J., the eighth in an annual series honoring the memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. It is sponsored by the Romero Center, a ministry of St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral in Camden.

Why Camden? Because it is one of the poorest and most crime-ridden cities in the country.

Why Archbishop Romero? Because his legacy is an expression of the church's preferential option for the poor.

The Romero Center fosters an understanding and application of what might be called Romero principles to pressing urban social problems.

The annual lecture is held on the Camden campus of Rutgers University, which is more than a convenient venue; without the application of the intellectual resources that a university has to offer, Camden's social problems will just get worse.

The lecture topic on March 14 is "Faith and Politics: How Does Our Faith Inform Us as We Prepare for the November Elections?"

If it is interesting to see a cathedral and a state university cooperating in this way, it is even more noteworthy considering the planners of the lecture seem to believe, to acknowledge that

the link between faith and politics needs exploration to find solutions to practical problems of urban crime and poverty.

There is, of course, in the United States a separation of church and state that has to be respected, but there is no separation of church and society.

The church — in this case the Camden cathedral — has to be involved if the city is to become more receptive to the coming of the promised kingdom of God, which is to be a reign of justice, love and peace.

Lowering the barriers to the coming of the promised kingdom means reducing injustice, hatred and all forms of violence.

In facing up to this challenge, the people of God in Camden can show other local churches the way.

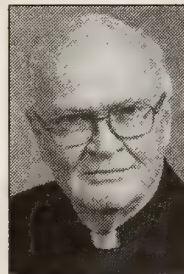
Past Romero lectures, all seven of them, are available in a new book titled "Romero's Legacy: The Call to Peace and Justice." The pastor of St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, Father Robert McDermott, is a Camden native, vicar general of the diocese and founder of the Romero Center.

His chapter in "Romero's Legacy" puts the reader "In the Footsteps of Martyrs: Lessons from Central America."

After making a pilgrimage to

## Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



El Salvador, Father McDermott says he was able "to grasp better and to radicalize the Gospel in my own ministry and in our work here in Camden."

He observes that "Archbishop Romero wanted the church to be neither a museum piece nor a political organization. But he knew that to be the true continuation of the Incarnation, the church had to take up the challenge of justice in all of its political, social and economic dimensions."

No surprise, then, to find subsequent chapters highlighting "The Eucharist and Social Justice" (John P. Hogan), "If You Want Peace, Work for Justice" (Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton), "Liberation Theology for the Twenty-First Century" (Father Gustavo Gutierrez), and chapters on the death penalty (recently banned in New Jersey) by Sister Helen Prejean, on racism by professor Diana Hayes, and on immigration by Daniel F. Groody.

This small book offers much to stimulate thought.

Camden's poor will have to wait and see if it stimulates action.





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COLOSSIANS 1: 28

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Bishop Peter Jugis



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Colossians 1: 28

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- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Fasting for justice; the  
Catholic concept of  
marriage; aging agelessly

| PAGES 14-15

FEBRUARY 22, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 17

## Discussing the defense of life

*Priest explains church's  
pro-life teachings during  
Lenten mission*

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — All  
human life is precious in the eyes  
of God, said a representative of  
Priests for Life.

Father Peter West, a priest  
associate with the pro-life  
organization, conducted a  
Lenten mission at Our Lady of  
Grace Church in Greensboro  
Feb. 9-13.

In addition to nightly pro-  
life talks Feb. 11-13, Father  
West's visit included preaching  
at all weekend Masses, visiting  
with religion classes at Our  
Lady of Grace School and

See LIFE, page 5

## PREPARING FOR A POPE



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Secret Service agents wear hard hats as they tour the new Nationals Park in Washington Feb. 14. Pope Benedict XVI will  
celebrate Mass at the baseball stadium April 17.

*Big, open spaces not an  
option for Washington,  
New York papal events*

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pope  
Benedict XVI's trip to the U.S.  
next spring brings a different  
kind of pope to an environment  
different in terms of security  
from when millions of people  
were able to participate in  
Masses celebrated by Pope  
John Paul II on his U.S. visits.

When Pope John Paul  
visited the United States  
in 1979, his weeklong trip  
included huge, open public  
Masses attended by hundreds  
of thousands of people at each  
venue, ranging from an Iowa  
farm field to Washington's  
National Mall.

The scenes were repeated  
when Pope John Paul returned

See POPE, page 8

## After the wind's wrath

*Valentine's dinner becomes affair of the  
heart for tornado victims*

BY MALEA HARGETT  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ATKINS, Ark. —  
Assumption Church's annual  
Valentine's roast beef dinner  
became an affair of the heart  
for victims of a February  
tornado that swept through  
Atkins, killing four people and  
damaging or destroying more  
than 100 homes and businesses.

The Feb. 9 dinner turned  
into a fundraiser for relief efforts  
and provided hot meals for  
victims of the Feb. 5 tornado.

"This year our Valentine's  
dinner is coming straight from  
the heart," said dinner organizer  
Jan Cummings, who oversaw  
volunteers peeling more than  
100 pounds of potatoes.

The dinner raised about  
\$2,000, and it was only one of  
the activities that converted the  
church into a service center for  
a community in need.

The day after the tornado,

See TORNADO, page 6

## A tragedy 'almost beyond words'

*Catholic parish on  
Illinois campus provides  
comfort after shooting*

BY SHARON BOEHLFELD  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DEKALB, Ill. — As  
helicopters hovered noisily  
over the parking lot at Christ  
the Teacher Church on the  
campus of Northern Illinois  
University, students, staff and  
parishioners gathered in the  
church to pray the rosary for  
victims of the Feb. 14 shooting

See COMFORT, page 7



CNS PHOTO BY MALEA HARGETT, ARKANSAS CATHOLIC

Father Ernest Hardesty visits with parishioner Cindy Ehemann in Atkins, Ark., Feb. 8, three days  
after a tornado tore off her home's roof. A statue of Mary in her front yard was not harmed.

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##

### Controversial coverage

*Belmont Abbey College strikes  
abortion from insurance policy*

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### Culture Watch

*Book's Bible-thumpin'  
candidates; the Black Christ*

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### In Our Schools

*Geography bees; students  
experience culture, arts*

| PAGES 12-13



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## MIRACULOUS MEDAL?



CNS BY FRANK J. METHE, CLARION HERALD

Ursuline Sisters Joan Marie Aycock, Kathleen Finnerty and Damian Aycock share a joyous moment following the New York Giants' 17-14 upset victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz., Feb. 3. Sister Finnerty, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, sent a medal of Our Lady of Prompt Succor to Giants' president John Mara before the Super Bowl for "a little extra divine intervention."

## Nuns say medal might have helped Giants win Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—Ursuline Sister Kathleen Finnerty, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, knows the limitations of Catholic theology as well as anyone.

So when she mailed a small medal of Our Lady of Prompt Succor to the New York Giants president, John Mara, before Super Bowl XLII, she knew there was no way she could "guarantee" his team a victory over the heavily favored New England Patriots.

"I never guaranteed him anything, but I wrote in the note that I thought he could use a little extra divine intervention," Sister Finnerty said. "I sent it off and completely forgot about it."

Miraculous or not, the Giants, 11-point underdogs, shocked the previously unbeaten Patriots 17-14 on the strength of a memorable touchdown drive in the final two minutes engineered by New Orleans native Eli Manning.

During the game-winning drive, Mara was caught on TV pacing in the owner's suite of the University of Phoenix Stadium and reaching into his shirt pocket.

It turns out he was praying silently and touching the religious medal sent to him by the former principal of Resurrection Grammar School in Rye, N.Y., where Sister Finnerty got to know the Maras and their three young children from 1984 to 1991.

"He coached the boys and girls in basketball, and he was always at parish events and fairs and at Mass,"

Sister Finnerty said. "The Maras were at all the events and activities where parents generally get involved. They're wonderful. They're a very strong family."

When Pope John Paul II visited Giants Stadium in 1995, the Maras allowed Resurrection parishioners, teachers and students to use their luxury box.

When Sister Finnerty came to New Orleans from Delaware last August to become superintendent, she met Ursuline Sisters Damian Aycock and Joan Marie Aycock, who have a penchant for sports of all kinds and who have followed closely the careers of former New Orleans Saints quarterback Archie Manning and his two sons, Eli and Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning.

It was Sister Aycock who suggested that Sister Finnerty send the Our Lady of Prompt Succor medal to Mara after the Giants advanced to the Super Bowl.

"Sister Damian said before the game, 'We have to get the 'Lady' on this,'" Sister Finnerty said.

"I love the Giants because they didn't seem to have a chance against the Patriots," Sister Aycock said.

"You really and truly have to give Eli credit," she added. "He himself doesn't know how he got out of the grasp of those Patriot defenders and to throw that great pass, and yet he seemed to walk out of their grasp."

Catholic theology, too, sometimes involves mystery.

## Rabbinical group asks Vatican for clarification on Good Friday prayer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism has asked for clarification from the Vatican as to whether a revised Good Friday prayer for the Jews in Latin calls for the conversion of Jews.

The new prayer replaces the one contained in the 1962 Roman Missal, which is no longer generally used by Catholics but which may be used by some church communities under recently revised norms.

Pope Benedict XVI has reformulated the Good Friday prayer for the Jews, removing language about the "blindness" of the Jews, but it asks for prayers for the Jews and that "all Israel may be saved." Some Jewish leaders criticized the phrasing as a call for Jews to accept Christianity.

A Feb. 14 resolution by the Rabbinical Assembly said that it "is dismayed and deeply disturbed to learn of reports that Pope Benedict XVI has revised the 1962 text of the Latin liturgy."

The New York-based assembly, with an international membership of 1,600 Conservative rabbis, passed the resolution during a meeting in Washington.

The vast majority of Catholics on Good Friday will hear a prayer in the vernacular formulated in 1970 and favored by Jewish leaders.

In a Feb. 13 letter to Rabbi David Rosen, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, said that "the reformulated text no longer speaks about the conversion of the Jews, as some Jewish critics wrongly affirm."

The prayer is inspired by St. Paul's Letter to the Romans and expresses "hope that at the end of times all Israel will be saved," Cardinal Kasper said.

"I cannot see why this prayer should present any reason to interrupt our dialogue," said the cardinal.

education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — A Support Group for Caregivers of a Family Member with Memory Loss meets the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convoking 2008-09 as a special Pauline year marking the 2000 anniversary of St. Paul's birth, a Pauline Symposium featuring talks by various speakers will be held in the banquet room of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Next: Feb. 28, "Rethinking God After His Appearance" by Father Patrick Cahill, parochial vicar.

CHARLOTTE — Lenten Evenings of Reflection at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., are held 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 24, 25 and 26. Capuchin Franciscan Father Vincent Fortunato will preach on God's unconditional love as demonstrated in the Prodigal Son. All invited. Bring a friend.

CHARLOTTE — A SPRED (Special Religious Development) information session will be held in the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27. SPRED provides spiritual growth and friendship for persons age 6 to adulthood with intellectual disabilities. The session is for parents/caregivers and potential volunteers.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Noted researcher Kevin Moran, will discuss the history and scientific scrutiny of the Shroud of Turin at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., March 5 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Moran is a parishioner of the

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, call (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Arden/Asheville area. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jbkraft@juno.com](mailto:jbkraft@juno.com).

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or [jnell@dnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope reduces waiting period for sainthood cause for Fatima visionary

COIMBRA, Portugal (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the five-year waiting period to start the canonization process for Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

The decision means that the diocesan phase of the sainthood process can begin immediately.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, made the announcement at a Feb. 13 Mass in Coimbra commemorating the third anniversary of Sister Lucia's death.

The cardinal said Pope Benedict had reduced to three years the waiting period so the Diocese of Coimbra, where Fatima is located, can begin the initial phase of the sainthood investigation.

On May 13, 1917, when Sister Lucia was 10 years old, she and her cousins — Francisco, 9, and Jacinta, 7 — claimed

to have seen Mary at Fatima, near their home.

The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

In 2000 Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Lucia's cousins, who died as children.

The diocesan phase of the investigation includes gathering and examining Sister Lucia's writings to see that they are in keeping with the faith and gathering evidence to see if she lived an exemplary Christian life.

Subsequent phases involve the Vatican congregation evaluating evidence that miracles attributed to her intercession occurred. One miracle is needed for her beatification, the step before canonization, and another miracle occurring after her beatification is needed for her to be declared a saint.

church and member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project and other guilds and societies dedicated to discovering the shroud's secrets.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays through Feb. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com or hlkwon@lexcominc.net.

STONEVILLE — Who are Secular Franciscans? The Franciscan family of Greensboro invites you to a "Come & See" informational session to learn about the Franciscan way of life for Catholic men and women March 2, 2-3:30 p.m., at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd. For more information, call Frank Massey at (336) 299-5038.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," the annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service, sponsored by Church Women United (which includes women from St. Aloysius, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Catholic churches), will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 7, at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 629 8th Street NE. The service will include music and a guest speaker. To attend or for more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Let the "Why Catholic?" program deepen your understanding of the Mass and sacraments though small group meetings weekly during Lent — 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. on Sundays — at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr. Call Dick or Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968 to register.

MURPHY — Rev. Ben Bushyhead of the Eastern Cherokee will lead the reflection at an *ecumenical Lenten service* 12-12:30 p.m. March 5 at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The service is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series*, 12:30-1:15 p.m., through Feb. 27, at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and a free presentation from other faith traditions addressing the topic of peacemaking. Rev. Tim Auman (United Methodist) will speak Feb. 27. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry Street, will host "More Than Silver or Gold," a Lenten/stewardship mission with Father Daniel Mahan of Marian Center in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Father Mahan will preach at the 5:30 p.m. Mass March 1 and 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses March 2. Father Mahan will also discuss how to grow closer to God, deepen bonds of communion and be more committed in God's work at 7-8 p.m. March 2, 3 and 4. No fee, all are welcome. To register for free child care, call (336) 996-5109 ext. 10.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Feb. 28 — 7 p.m.

Mass for Life

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

March 1 — 11 a.m.

Rite of recommitment for permanent deacons and rite of candidacy for permanent diaconate aspirants

St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

## New U.S. ambassador to Vatican arrives in Rome

ROME (CNS) — The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, arrived in Rome Feb. 15 and said she looked forward to working with the Vatican on issues of religious freedom and religious tolerance.

Glendon, a Harvard University law professor, has served with Vatican agencies and diplomatic missions in the past. She said she hoped that experience would help her advance U.S.-Vatican relations in her new post.

The United States and the Vatican have a "common commitment to the human dignity of every man, woman and child," she said to reporters at the Rome airport Feb. 15. "Both the United States and the Holy See have a long history in which faith and reason are inseparably united in that quest."

Glendon said the United States works for human dignity by "vigorously promoting human rights and religious freedom and by striving to foster dialogue and tolerance among persons of

different faiths and cultures."

As ambassador, she said, she expects to work with the Vatican "to advance those lofty goals."

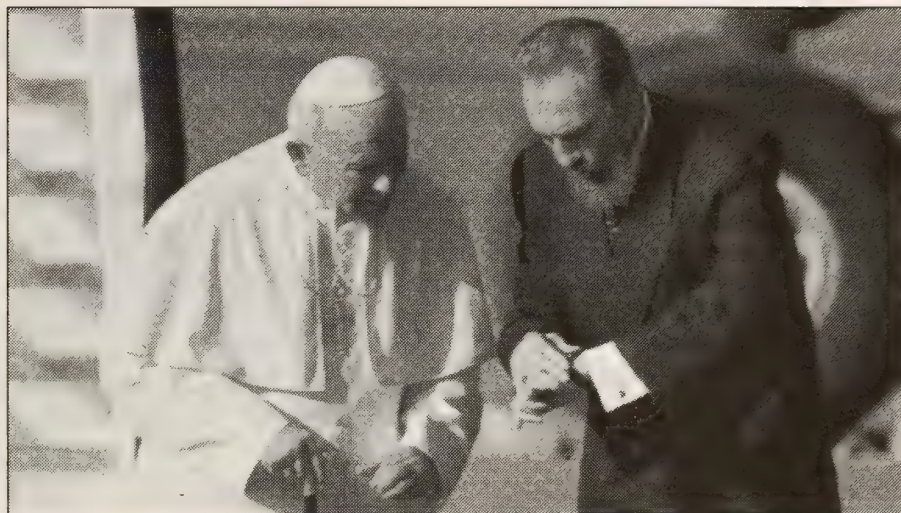
"I will do everything in my power to build on and enrich the strong relationship between (the) United States and the Holy See," she said.

Glendon has resigned her position as president of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences, but will remain a member of the academy, embassy sources said.

She was expected to present her credentials in an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the end of February.

Glendon spoke in a ceremonial room at Leonardo da Vinci Airport, standing at a podium flanked by U.S. and Vatican flags.

She said she looked forward to spending a year in Rome, which has been like a "second home" to her. Glendon's oldest daughter and three grandchildren live in Rome.



CNS BY ZORANDA DIAZ, REUTERS

Pope John Paul II and Cuban President Fidel Castro check the time as the pope arrives in Cuba in this 1998 file photo. Castro said Feb. 19 that he is retiring after nearly a half-century in power.

## Castro's rule marked by stormy relations with Cuban church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During nearly 50 years of rule, Fidel Castro had an often-stormy relationship with the Cuban Catholic Church.

The Jesuit-educated Castro was equally comfortable defusing the Cuban church as an institutional force during the early years of his revolution in the 1960s as he was bantering casually with Pope John Paul II during the papal visit to Cuba in 1998.

The 81-year-old Cuban leader announced Feb. 19 that he was retiring as head of the island nation. He had temporarily ceded power to his younger brother, Raul Castro, in July 2006, after undergoing surgery because of intestinal bleeding — but he never returned to office, ending more than 49 years of continuous rule.

He came to power Jan. 1, 1959, after leading a successful guerrilla rebellion against unpopular dictator Fulgencio Batista. Initially, his successful rebellion had ample support among Catholics, cultivated by his insistence his revolution was motivated by Christian principles.

But in 1961, he declared himself a Marxist-Leninist and made Cuba the first communist state in the western hemisphere, moving it into the Cold War camp of the Soviet Union.

His government began institutionally dismantling the church, nationalizing 350 Catholic schools and expelling 136 priests. Church activity was monitored and restricted to religious services on church property.

Despite the crackdown on the church, Castro never broke diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

After a 1996 Castro visit with Pope John Paul at the Vatican, plans developed for the 1998 papal trip, interpreted as a sign of improved church-state relations based on a willingness by the government to give the church more breathing space in the post-Cold War era.

Castro met the pope several times during the Cuban visit, allowed church officials to mobilize Catholics to attend papal events and permitted papal activities to be televised and reported in the state-controlled media.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 23 — 7:15 a.m.

Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Feb. 26 — 2 p.m.

Diocesan Building Commission meeting

Pastoral Center, Charlotte



# The call to Catholicism



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Above: Catechumens are supported by their sponsors during the Rite of Election at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem Feb. 17.



The rite, celebrated annually in cathedrals and churches around the world, formally acknowledges the readiness of catechumens preparing to enter the church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the RCIA is a program of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, which is funded in part by contributions to the annual Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's campaign runs Feb. 2-March 9.

Below: Catechumens are supported by their sponsors while others hold their parish's Book of Elect during the Rite of Election at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler Feb. 10.



PHOTO BY CRIS VILLAPANDO

# Celebrating the calling



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Conrad Kimbrough (front), a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, is joined by priests and deacons in the chapel at Pennyburn at Maryfield in High Point Feb. 10, to celebrate his 30th anniversary as a Catholic priest and 55th anniversary of ordained ministry. Prior to being ordained a Catholic priest in 1978, Father Kimbrough served as an Episcopalian priest for 25 years. Friends and family gathered for the celebration.

Pictured with Father Kimbrough (from left) are Father James Ebright, priest in residence at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church; Deacon Jim Atkinson, permanent deacon at Holy Spirit Church in Denver; transitional Deacon Brad Jones; and Father Jay Scott Newman, pastor at St. Mary Church in Greenville.

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## FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Father Peter West, a priest associate with Priests for Life, answers questions after Mass as part of a pro-life Lenten mission at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

## Priest explains church's pro-life teaching during mission

LIFE, from page 1

Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, and meeting with local religious, youth and pro-life groups.

A pro-life activist since 1986, Father West was ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., in 1991.

In 1998, he joined Priests for Life, an association of Catholic clergy with special emphasis on the pro-life teachings of the church.

Based out of Priest for Life's Staten Island, N.Y., office, Father West has spoken at more than 300 churches throughout the United States and has appeared on radio and TV spreading the Gospel of Life.

"We are very happy to have Father West come for our parish mission," said Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church.

During the Lenten mission, Father West discussed pro-life issues in the Old Testament and, utilizing a variety of Scripture references, he emphasized that God is the master of all life.

"All human life is precious in the eyes of God," said Father West.

"Not even a murderer loses his or her human dignity," he said.

Father West said that in order for Satan to influence people with his lies, humanity must first dehumanize the vulnerable — whether they be Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, women, the disabled or the unborn.

This, he said, was how Adolf Hitler's holocaust was able to occur.

It is also how the "holocaust of abortion" — the "greatest evil in the world today" — is able to exist, said Father West.

"The United States must go back to the roots of its founding documents, where life, liberty and the pursuit of

### DID YOU KNOW?

Priests for Life was established in the early 1990s as an association of faithful to work for pro-life issues.

Under the leadership of Father Frank Pavone, national director, Priests for Life serves as a resource on pro-life issues to effectively build up the "culture of life" by giving public witness to the defense of the weakest of the weak against the horrors of abortion, euthanasia and genetic manipulation.

According to Father Peter West, a priest associate with Priests for Life, there are three full-time and three part-time staff members, with an expanded membership of priests and deacons throughout the United States.

happiness had meaning. Yet the most important of these is life, for without it everything else is meaningless," he said.

Father West said *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion virtually on demand, shattered all legislation protecting our rights.

During a question-and-answer session, Father West explained why he became so actively involved in the pro-life movement.

He said he "saw pictures of the unborn who were murdered. That pushed me over the edge."

Calling abortion the "greatest social ill of today," Father West said there are more babies murdered in one year than the lives lost in all the wars fought by the United States to this day.

According to a report released in January by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the number of abortions in the United States in 2005 was 1.2 million.

Nearly 50 million babies are estimated to have been aborted since 1973.

Father West also spoke about the sinfulness of embryonic stem-cell research and discussed ways to find out which organizations support such research and abortions.

Parishioner Tim Mainhart said he attended the Lenten mission to "learn more about the work of defending life, from its beginning to its natural end."

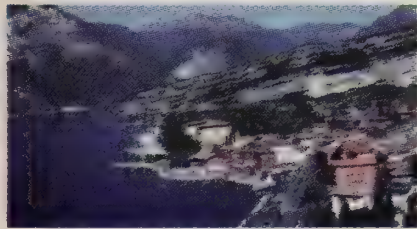
"Like Father West said, 'so many people fail by doing nothing about abortion,'" said Mainhart.

"It's very clear from the Old Testament that life is precious to God — from conception to death," he said.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail [gpotkay@triad.rr.com](mailto:gpotkay@triad.rr.com).

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COLUMN ON PAGE 14.



## Valetine's dinner becomes affair of heart for tornado victims

TORNADO, from page 1

Father Ernest Hardesty, Assumption Church pastor, opened the parish doors to provide lunch and dinner for firefighters, police officers and other relief workers.

On Feb. 11, the Federal Emergency Management Agency took over a parish hall as the official Pope County Disaster Recovery Center to register victims with FEMA and get help from state agencies and charities.

Father Hardesty said he witnessed "three miles of destruction." His church, about half a mile from the tornado, was not damaged.

Victims included parishioners William and Cindy Ehemann. They arrived home from work around 4:50 p.m. and soon learned that a tornado was heading toward them.

They gathered their three cats and two dogs and hid in the master bedroom's walk-in closet.

"William said he felt like Jesus was holding him down," Cindy said.

When they opened the closet door, the roof and one cat were missing.

The tornado tore the roof completely off and destroyed the workshop from which William Ehemann operates his construction business.

"I feel like we have been blessed," Cindy Ehemann said. "We are not as much of a victim (as others were)."

Volunteers helped the couple clean up. When they were taking apart the couple's bed, the volunteers discovered the missing cat under the bed. The cat was traumatized but not harmed.

"It has been tested," Cindy Ehemann said of her faith. "I'm trying to get in good spirits. To me, I'm just

"William said he felt like Jesus was holding him down."

— Cindy Ehemann

thankful I am alive. All of this stuff can be replaced."

Al Hettel said it takes such a tragedy to find out "that people are a lot better than you think they are."

Hettel and his wife, Kay, also members of Assumption Church, live in one of the hardest-hit areas of Atkins. Three of their next-door neighbors died in the storm.

A neighbor encouraged them to seek shelter in another neighbor's storm shelter.

"Boy, it's a good thing we did," Hettel said. "Fifteen minutes later, everything came apart."

About 24 hours after the storm, the Hettels joined other Atkins Catholics for Mass on Ash Wednesday.

"We really had something to be grateful for," Al Hettel said.

The same tornado traveled 123 miles across the state. A second tornado took a 14-mile-path across Marion and Baxter counties. At least 13 mostly rural countries were affected.

Catholic Charities of Arkansas is overseeing the Little Rock Diocese's recovery efforts. Volunteer parish teams will be trained to do case management.

Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, a member of the Daughters of Charity and director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas, said the teams would likely operate for at least a year.

Brigid Ryan, northeast regional case manager for Catholic Charities of



CNS PHOTO BY JESSICA RINALDI, REUTERS

The front steps of a house are all that remain Feb. 7 after it was hit by a tornado in Atkins, Ark., Feb. 5. The tornado that swept through the southeastern part of town killed four people and damaged or destroyed more than 100 homes and businesses.

Arkansas' Hurricane Recovery Office, is coordinating long-term programs in north Arkansas.

"When the (American) Red Cross leaves, there are still going to be many homeless families with many, many needs and really a lack of services available to provide those needs," she said.

Much of the service provided by the parish teams involves listening to victims' stories, Ryan said.

"People need to be able to talk

out that trauma," she said. Financial assistance also will be important because there are a lot of out-of-pocket expenses in the short term, she said.

"We're such a middle-class working community; many people in these areas were living paycheck to paycheck," she said. "There's going to be so much financial assistance needed to get these people back in houses."

Contributing to this story was Tara Little.

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## IN THE NEWS

# Catholic parish provides comfort after campus shooting

COMFORT, from page 1

on their campus.

Five students died in the shooting, when a 27-year-old man opened fire with a shotgun and several handguns in a school auditorium. He shot at least 22 people and sent dozens of students running and crawling toward exits.

The gunman, a former graduate student at the university, then turned the gun on himself and died on the auditorium's stage. University officials said they had no motive for the gunman's actions, but an investigation was continuing.

As word of the shootings spread across the campus, buildings and dorms were locked down.

Within hours, parishioners at Christ the Teacher Church, home to the university's Newman Center, brought cartons of sodas and chips to the parish in preparation for students who might come to pray or seek comfort.

Of the estimated 25,000 students enrolled at Northern Illinois University, approximately, 9,000 are Catholic. DeKalb is located in the heart of the 11-county Diocese of Rockford, which stretches from suburban Chicago to the Mississippi River.

Msgr. Glenn Nelson, pastor of the campus parish and vicar general and chancellor of the Rockford Diocese, was away from DeKalb when news broke of

the campus shooting.

He immediately returned to campus and began taking phone calls, including one from Father John Grace of the Newman Center on the campus of Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va., where a student killed 32 students and faculty members in April 2007 and then took his own life.

"Father John called us to say their students are united with us and they are praying for us," said Msgr. Nelson.

Last year, students and parishioners at Christ the Teacher Church made rosaries in the Virginia Tech colors of maroon and orange and sent them to the students there.

Father Grace said he was confident students at Northern Illinois University would see "the power of community for each other," as the Virginia Tech students did after their shooting.

Msgr. Nelson said the first response at Christ the Teacher Church was to prepare to keep the building open as long as necessary.

Msgr. Nelson visited students on the Catholic floor of University Plaza, a private dormitory a few blocks from where the shooting took place. Another priest from the parish had been at the local hospital where many of the victims had been taken.

During the evening after the shooting, small groups of students wandered into the church. Some joined the rosary, others shared conversation in the lounge, and still others sat before computers in a study room, monitoring the news.



CNS PHOTO BY KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI, REUTERS

A young woman sheds tears while attending a memorial service Feb. 15 at the Newman Center at Northern Illinois University for the victims of a shooting on the DeKalb, Ill., campus. A former 27-year-old graduate student walked onto the stage of a lecture hall at the university and opened fire on a packed science class Feb. 14, killing five students and wounding at least 16 before committing suicide.

On Feb. 15, the daily Mass was for the victims of the tragedy, and an ecumenical prayer vigil was scheduled for the evening.

Rockford Bishop Thomas G. Doran called Msgr. Nelson Feb. 14 and assured him of his prayers and support for his efforts and for all the students and parents involved in the unfolding crisis.

In a Feb. 15 statement, the bishop said he offered his prayers for "all the

souls who were murdered in this event and are now in the hands of God. They were innocent victims of a horrible crime. Our thoughts too go to the students and others who were injured and we pray that their injuries will be swiftly and surely cured."

The bishop also offered prayers for the entire university community, asking God to "give them the grace to deal with this tragedy which is almost beyond words."

## Controversial coverage

### College strikes abortion, contraception from insurance policy

BELMONT — Health care coverage contradictory to Catholic Church teaching has been removed from Belmont Abbey College.

In December 2007, college officials realized the college employee health care plan covered abortion, contraception and

voluntary sterilization.

"As soon as we discovered this, we immediately removed these procedures and prescriptions from the health care plan provided by the college for our employees," said Dr. William Thierfelder, college president, in a letter to faculty,

staff, students and alumni.

Founded in 1876, the Benedictine Belmont Abbey College is consistently ranked one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review.

Abbot Placid Solari, head of the monastic community at Belmont Abbey and chancellor of its college, met Jan. 18 with college faculty and staff to explain the reasons behind the change in policy.

Late in 2007, the college's health insurance provider changed the cost and structure of its coverage for college employees. In reviewing the new paperwork, a faculty member noticed the policy covered abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization.

It was later discovered that the particular coverage had been in place for some time.

"(That is) something we all regret and for which we apologize," said Thierfelder.

College officials are unable to determine when and how the coverage got into the policy.

"When this discovery was brought to the attention of Abbot Placid, he and I immediately asked our health insurance provider to eliminate coverage for abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization from the college's group medical plan," he said.

"It is the clear, consistent,

incontrovertible, public, official and authoritative teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization are actions which are intrinsically wrong and should not be undertaken because of their very nature," said Thierfelder.

"As a Roman Catholic institution, Belmont Abbey College is not able to and will not offer nor subsidize medical services that contradict the clear teaching of the Catholic Church."

Since the policy change, eight faculty members filed formal complaints with various state and federal agencies, demanding the reinstatement of these coverages, said Thierfelder.

The group filed charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming the change in insurance benefits was an act of discrimination on the basis of their religion or sex.

The college has retained legal counsel regarding the EEOC complaints.

The National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C., has threatened a lawsuit against the college on behalf of the eight faculty members. The college, however, will not reinstate the coverage.

"As a Catholic College sponsored by the monks of Belmont Abbey, Belmont Abbey College will not offer nor subsidize these coverages. To do so would be to act contrary to the college's stated mission and identity," said Thierfelder.

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CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Felician Sister Mary Agnesita takes a photo of Felician Sister Mary Wiktima of Krakow, Poland, during a tour at the United Nations in New York Jan. 17. Nearby is the chair used by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's representative to the United Nations, when he observes the proceedings of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Pope Benedict XVI will address the U.N. General Assembly April 18.

## Pope Benedict's first visit to U.S. as pope features diverse encounters

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the United States as head of the Catholic Church features a diverse series of encounters with government leaders, interreligious and ecumenical representatives, the academic world and the Catholic faithful.

The pope's events in Washington and New York April 15-20 include a meeting with President George W. Bush at the White House and a visit to Ground Zero in lower Manhattan.

His address to the United Nations April 18 will be the international highlight of the trip, offering the pope the most significant global platform to date in his three-year pontificate.

It will be Pope Benedict's eighth foreign trip and the first papal visit to the United States since Pope John Paul II made a 30-hour visit to St. Louis in 1999. At the Vatican, too, church officials say this could be the most important papal trip in years.

Here is how the pope's itinerary will unfold:

### Tuesday, April 15

The pope is expected to arrive at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington in the late afternoon on his chartered Alitalia jet. He will be greeted by Bush and the first lady, as well as by local church dignitaries, and both the pope and the president are expected to make brief remarks. Afterward, the pope will go to rest at the apostolic nunciature, the Vatican's version of an embassy.

### Wednesday, April 16

Bush welcomes the pope on the south lawn of the White House at 10:30 a.m.; then the two leaders go inside for private talks. It's only the second time in history that a pope has visited the White House, and it takes place on the pope's 81st birthday.

At 5:30 p.m., the pope presides over a prayer service with about 350 U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National

Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Before the service, the pope will greet well-wishers outside.

### Thursday, April 17

At 10 a.m., the pope celebrates Mass in Nationals Park. At 5 p.m., the pope addresses the heads of more than 200 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities at The Catholic University of America. Also attending will be school superintendents from U.S. dioceses.

At 6:30 p.m., the pope will join Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, Hindus and representatives of other religions for a meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

### Friday, April 18

After flying from Washington to New York, the pope addresses the U.N. General Assembly at 10:45 a.m. At 6 p.m., the pope holds a prayer service with representatives of other Christian denominations at St. Joseph Church, a historic German parish in the Yorkville section of Manhattan.

### Saturday, April 19

At 9:15 a.m., the pope celebrates Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan for priests, deacons and members of religious orders. The day marks the third anniversary of the pope's election. At 4:30 p.m., the pope presides over a gathering with young people at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

The pope will meet with about 50 disabled youths, then speak to several thousand young people — including hundreds of seminarians — at what's being described as a rally/prayer service.

### Sunday, April 20

At 9:30 a.m., the pope will visit Ground Zero, the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. At 2:30 p.m., the pope will celebrate Mass in Yankee Stadium.

The pope departs John F. Kennedy International Airport at 8 p.m. on Shepherd One, his chartered Alitalia jet.

## Big, open spaces not an option for D.C., N.Y. papal events

POPE, from page 1

for a multicity tour in 1987, celebrating liturgies in the New Orleans Superdome, a California racetrack, an empty San Antonio field and other huge spaces.

When Pope Benedict makes his first trip to the United States as pope April 15-20, the opportunities for the public to see him will be limited to Masses at two baseball stadiums in Washington and New York, with capacities of probably no more than 45,000 and 65,000, respectively, and a rally for perhaps 15,000 youths and seminarians.

Other events in both cities are invitation-only.

One reason the liturgies with Pope Benedict won't be on the National Mall or in Central Park is simply that neither locale was available, according to communications officials with the Washington and New York archdioceses.

Susan Gibbs, communications director for the Washington Archdiocese, said the pope's visit follows immediately after the city's National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Mall — the expanse of lawn between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol — could not be booked.

For one thing, the National Park Service schedules time for the mall's grassy areas to recover after big events, especially in the spring, Gibbs told Catholic News Service. The time to construct a stage for an altar and the related spaces necessary for staging a Mass concelebrated by hundreds of priests also would have been a problem.

Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the New York Archdiocese, said that "Central Park wasn't an option" for this papal visit.

As recently as 1995, Pope John Paul celebrated Mass in New York's Central Park, and it was attended by an estimated 250,000 people.

Then, tickets were required for certain sections but the general public could walk up and participate in the liturgy from outside the Great Lawn, with the help of jumbo television screens.

But not long after that Mass, as well as some huge concerts on the Great Lawn,

the city restored the well-trampled field and imposed new restrictions on how the space can be used, Zwilling said. Papal Masses are no longer a possibility there.

The cost of a Mass on the Mall would have run into the millions of dollars, Gibbs said.

A Washington Post report on the logistics of the 1979 Mass on the Mall estimated the cost to the city and the archdiocese at \$1.9 million, or about \$4.25 million in 2007 dollars.

The archdiocese's share, about \$400,000, would translate to more than \$1.1 million today.

And those expenses included none of the contemporary security measures that such a Mass would require today, such as metal detectors and fencing to keep out people who haven't been screened.

Both Zwilling and Gibbs acknowledged that security is much easier to handle at a structure like a baseball stadium. When Pope John Paul first came to the United States, no tickets and no security checks were necessary to attend Masses on the Mall or in other open venues.

After a would-be assassin seriously wounded the pope during a public audience in St. Peter's Square in 1981, open events such as those on Pope John Paul's 1987 itinerary required people to have tickets and go through some security.

Gibbs said security measures would need to be even more rigid after the 2001 terrorist attacks, especially in the cities of New York and Washington, both targets on Sept. 11, 2001.

Gibbs and Zwilling said the staffs at both baseball stadiums have been extraordinarily helpful in accommodating the demands of hosting Masses with the pope.

"We had considered several sites, including the Mall," Gibbs said. "The Nationals Park stadium was our first choice. The building will be very new, and will have many of the services we would need already in place, including hospitality, security, seating, areas for priests to vest, an audio system and so on."

In addition, a new entrance to the Metro subway system a block away from the stadium, should be ready by opening day for the Major League Baseball season, two weeks before Pope Benedict arrives.



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# The church present and future

*In U.S., pope will find multicultural church marked by stronger laity*

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — What kind of Catholic Church will Pope Benedict XVI find when he arrives in the United States in April?

How similar to or different will it be from the U.S. church community that greeted Pope John Paul II on his first papal visit in 1979 or his last trip to the U.S. in 1999?

Scholars and experts contacted by Catholic News Service at Catholic universities around the country did not always agree on the answers to those questions, but several themes emerged.

They saw a church dealing with parish consolidations or closings and a declining availability of priests, but also experiencing a new vibrancy in lay ecclesial ministry.

They saw what one called "a chastened church" after the clergy sex abuse scandal but a church that has learned important lessons about accountability. And they saw a church already more than one-third Hispanic and still learning how to adapt to the realities of multiculturalism.

There's no doubt that the United States Pope Benedict will visit has more Catholics than the country to which Pope John Paul came in 1979 or 1999.

The Catholic population in the 50 states was less than 50 million in 1979 but grew to more than 59 million in 1999 and 64.4 million today, according to the Official Catholic Directory.

That growth has roughly mirrored the rise in total U.S. population, from 218.6 million in 1979 to 232.4 million in 1999 and 300.7 million in 2007.

The number of U.S. parishes has remained relatively steady over those years, with 18,695 parishes in 1979, a slight rise to 19,186 in 1999 and a drop back down to 18,642 last year.

But the number of diocesan and religious-order priests serving U.S. Catholics has sharply declined, from 58,430 in 1979 to 46,355 in 1999 and 41,446 in 2007.

Alan Schreck, chairman of the theology department at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, said the alarming drop in the number of priests also has had a happy consequence in the rising number of Catholic laypeople involved in church ministries.



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Parishioners Gilberto, Refugio, Evangelina and Evelyn Garcia pray during a 2007 Mass at St. Cecilia Church in Mount Prospect, Ill. U.S. scholars and experts agree Pope Benedict XVI, during his April visit, will find the U.S. church experiencing a new vibrancy in lay ecclesial ministry and one that is already more than one-third Hispanic and still learning to adapt to the realities of multiculturalism.

At Franciscan University alone, there are more than 500 undergraduate theology students, "the vast majority of them laypeople," he said, and more than 100 graduate each year with the training once given only to clergy.

Schreck believes Pope Benedict will find "a greater maturity, a greater sense of direction and mission" among American Catholics today than Pope John Paul did 28 years ago.

"For me, the most positive thing in 2008 is that laypeople are immensely more aware of their responsibility for the church present and future," said Paul Lakeland, director of the Center for Catholic Studies at Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Lakeland said the clergy sex abuse crisis had one positive result: It convinced Catholics that "we need to have more of a voice in our church."

"It didn't matter if you were on the left or the right," he added. "You were equally scandalized."

Michael O'Keeffe, a theology professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago, said he hopes Pope Benedict will acknowledge during his visit that the issues raised by the sex abuse scandal are not over.

"I believe that the pope would be well served by speaking to people about this issue and becoming more engaged in helping the church to heal," O'Keeffe said. "I might also ask the pope to take the time to hear about the health of the American Catholic Church, not simply from the bishops, but from the people."

Charles Zech, professor of economics at the business school at Villanova University, near Philadelphia, and director of the school's Center for the Study of Church Management, said the sex abuse scandal brought "pressures at all levels to be more transparent."

And the decline in the number of priests led more and more laypeople to take on "responsibility for the things priests and nuns used to do," he said.

Together, those trends have left many laypeople in need of "the skills to run a faith-based nonprofit," Zech said, adding that the 2-year-old National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management is working to fill those gaps.

Msgr. Kevin Irwin, dean of the school of theology and religious studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said Pope Benedict will find "a higher awareness of the multicultural reality of the church" than Pope John Paul might have seen on any of his U.S. visits.

Hispanics now make up an estimated 35 percent of the U.S. Catholic population, and more than half of all U.S. Catholics under age 25 are Hispanic or Latino.

With Mass celebrated in more than three dozen languages around the United States, "there's lots of work being done" to promote multiculturalism, "and more that needs to be done," Msgr. Irwin said.

Eileen Burke-Sullivan, director of the master's program in ministry at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., said most U.S. Catholics today are "willing to work on their own faith, be loyal to their own local clergy if they feel attended to by them," and are "somewhat uncaring about the universal expression of the church."

Schreck hopes Pope Benedict will inspire "a revitalization" that will help American Catholics resist "the increasing pressure toward secularization, to be part of the mass culture."

"Catholics in America do need to be reminded we are in a struggle" against the prevailing cultural norms, he said. "They have to understand this is really a battle."

## Lenten Morning of Reflection



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## PAPAL VISIT TO THE USA

Look for more stories about Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in upcoming issues.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Georgetown professor assesses how well candidates 'thump the Bible'

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Presidential politics might seem like an unusual topic for an associate professor of Jewish civilization at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service to tackle.

But the Jesuit-run university's Jacques Berlinerblau sees his latest book, "Thumpin' It: The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today's Presidential Politics," as a natural follow-up to his 2005 work, "The Secular Bible: Why Nonbelievers Must Take Religion Seriously."

The earlier book focused primarily on the Hebrew Bible and the way it is used in modern American society. A move from the New York area to the U.S. political capital of Washington led Berlinerblau to a heightened interest in politics.

He began analyzing the presidential candidates in terms of how well they were responding to the religious sensibilities of their fellow citizens.

So far, the candidates who are getting the highest marks from Berlinerblau for using — but not overusing — the Bible in their campaigns are Democratic Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Clinton of New York.

They are following in the footsteps of two people dubbed "masters of the craft" by the Georgetown professor — President George W. Bush and his predecessor, former President Bill Clinton.

"Both routinely salt their presidential rhetoric, ever so lightly, with scriptural allusions," Berlinerblau writes. "Their consistent, albeit understated, invocation of Scripture convincingly established their bona fides with an electorate for whom such things are important."

"In addition," he writes, "their forays into the Bible did not endanger their campaigns by generating scads of negative publicity," something the author says former Democratic candidates Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut did.

Less successful in his religious references was former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who withdrew from the Republican presidential race at the end of January. Berlinerblau said it was not surprising that Giuliani, a Catholic, did not often cite Scripture in his talks because Catholics in general "are not given to paroxysms of scriptural citation."

But Berlinerblau said Giuliani's "unshakable, though imperfect" relationship with his faith made him similar to most religious Americans — a resemblance he believes could have helped Giuliani with Catholic voters down the road.

Berlinerblau isn't the only one focusing on the faith connection in the 2008 presidential race. Beliefnet.com, an independent online resource on faith and spirituality, has its God-o-Meter, which ranks the presidential candidates on a scale that ranges from secularist at 0 to

theocrat at 10.

In an end-of-January assessment, Obama was ranked highest at 9, with Democrats Hillary Clinton and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who has withdrawn from the race, each receiving 8 points. Among Republicans, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister, received an 8, as did former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who also has withdrawn, and Rep. Ron Paul of Texas.

At the bottom of the pack — at least in the view of God-o-Meter blogger Dan Gilgoff — are former Democratic Sen. Mike Gravel, a Unitarian Universalist, ranked at 4, and former Republican Sen. Fred Thompson, at 3.

Thompson, a member of the Church of Christ, pulled out of the presidential race Jan. 22; Gravel is still in the race.

Gilgoff moves the candidates up and down on the God-o-Meter based on a complicated set of criteria.

This includes whether he or she delivers a speech or makes an appearance in an overtly religious setting, whether he or she buys ads in religious media or grants an interview to a religious broadcaster or publication, and whether he or she discusses publicly how faith would influence his or her presidency.

Berlinerblau isn't saying whether religion should or should not be a part of presidential politics. But he does warn that when the Bible enters the political arena, care must be taken.

"Scripture and politics are highly combustible materials. Mix them together and the possibilities for an occasional 'work accident' are considerable," he said. "When discussing the Bible in public, an element of volatility is always present."

But that is not likely to keep presidential candidates present and future from citing the Bible as evidence that God backs their political stands.

"Not only the American experience but 2,000 years of biblical interpretation have demonstrated that no empire, no society and rarely even one denomination has ever been able to agree on what the Bible says," Berlinerblau said.

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## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 2, 2008

March 2, Fourth Sunday  
of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Psalm 23:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 5:8-14  
Gospel: John 9:1-41

## Scripture calls us to discern God's will for us

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few days ago, my husband and I visited face to face with our representatives in the state legislature as part of a Catholic advocacy effort.

Our aim was to promote the Catholic faith community's position on several key issues the legislators would consider in the current session.

Being a citizen advocate was a new role for my husband, who recently retired from a long career as an editorial writer. He knows the issues well and can articulate a position easily.

After years of continuing dialogue he also knows well, and personally, our state senator and delegate.

As our delegate welcomed us into his office it appeared that this familiarity might head off serious discussion. Initial light verbal jabs and laughs indicated the two men's understanding that they stand at opposite political poles.

Finally, the delegate said, "So what have you got for me?"

I handed him our packet of written materials. He cursorily thumbed through

the pages as my husband amiably reminded him that, "We are Catholic and you probably know where Catholics stand on most of these issues."

They discussed the delegate's longtime support of the death penalty and briefly argued its value as a deterrent to violent crime. The delegate mentioned, however, that his thoughts on the issue have been "evolving" recently.

At that point I sneaked into the conversation, suggesting he consider the matter in terms of societal respect for humanity. He and I had never met before so he thoughtfully responded in kind to my serious tone.

With that small opening he and my husband engaged in a new conversation about faith and human dignity that seemed to open a possibility to this young man's eventual change of heart.

Once they had broken through the veil of certain expected behaviors, they could see each other differently and communicate in a clearer, new way.

This weekend's readings are about seeing God's vision of human life, a vision obscured by daily minutiae, popular culture and familiarity. The Scriptures call us to be blind to the worldly view so we can discern God's perspective — and his will for us.

For me, it usually means physically removing myself from what is familiar to get a better God's-eye view. It's a constant battle, but once our eyes are opened, our wills have a chance to follow his path.

### Questions:

What things in your daily living obscure spiritual perspective? How can you "get away" from world-bound concerns and familiarity to see life as God sees it?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 24-MARCH 1

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; Monday (Lenten Weekday), 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; Friday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday (Lenten Weekday), Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2-8

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; Monday (St. Katharine Drexel), Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; Tuesday (Lenten Weekday), Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; Wednesday (Lenten Weekday), Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; Thursday (Lenten Weekday), Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Perpetua and St. Felicity), Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; Saturday (St. John of God), Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

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# Inspired by ‘Naza’

## Locals, tourists, famous singers flock to Panama’s Black Christ

BY IOAN GRILLO  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PORTOBELLO, Panama — His face is dark brown like coffee. His lips and nose are thin and delicate like the Amhara people of Ethiopia. His wooden body is detailed and strong, hewn by a forgotten Spanish sculptor thousands of miles from the sweltering Caribbean village where he now rests. Known as the “Black Christ of Portobelo,” the 17th-century statue of an African-looking Jesus has become a year-round tourist attraction and the destination of pilgrimages for tens of thousands of Latin Americans of African descent. As transportation has improved in recent years, more and more people swarm to the annual gatherings every Oct. 21, the date the Black Christ, or Nazarene, was believed to have washed ashore. The Black Christ, warmly call “Naza” by local residents, also attracts a broad section of other people from across the continent who believe a visit will heal them or create a miracle. Among the more unusual visitors are Hindus from Panama’s small Indian community. Many believe a local Hindu girl was cured of a disease several decades ago after visiting the statue. Swami

Jagadish at Panama City’s Hindu temple said he has no objection to the Hindu faithful venerating the Black Christ. “They are free to make their own decisions,” he said. Other devotees of the Black Christ have included famous singers. Giants of salsa music such as Cuban Celia Cruz and Puerto Rican Pete “El Conde” Rodriguez have visited the statue. Ismael Rivera, the Puerto Rican crooner who scored a series of hits in the United States, first visited the statue in 1975 and said the encounter saved him from a drug addiction that would have killed him. Rivera traveled to Portobelo every October for the next 10 years and composed a song named after the statue, which became a hit in Panama. Following his death in 1987, the Portobelo community built a statue to Rivera; it now stands a few meters from his beloved Black Christ. Carved on Rivera’s statue are the lyrics of his hit song. The faithful believe the Black Christ was brought miraculously to this Panamanian village to care for a people who lived through slavery in the Spanish empire, worked to death on the Panama Canal and still struggle in poverty-stricken communities early in the 21st century. “They can identify with this image of




CNS PHOTO BY TERESITA CHAVARRIA

Catholics carry the Black Christ of Portobelo, a sculpture of Jesus Christ in the image of an African, in Portobelo, Panama, in this Oct. 21, 2007, file photo. Every year, tens of thousands of the faithful, including many of African descent, make a pilgrimage to Portobelo to see the Black Christ.

Christ. They feel it gives them a special way to communicate with God,” said Father Jose Cedeno, priest at Portobelo’s St. Philip Church, where the statue is kept. “They feel that when they talk to the Black Christ, God will understand their poverty. He will understand if they have sinned or turned to crime.” Many people on the margins of society, including criminals and drug addicts, are among those who honor the statue, Father Ortega said. Most people believe the statue was washed up from a Spanish galleon in 1658 and landed on the beach at Portobelo, then a community of slaves working on harsh tropical plantations. It is not clear why a Spaniard carved the statue in this style. One theory is that it was made for the African population down the coast in Cartagena, Colombia, but the ship was sunk by a storm off Panama. The Catholic hierarchy did not immediately warm to the veneration of the Black Christ and at several times over the centuries bishops did not assign priests to Portobelo, leaving the local community

to pray to the statue without the approval of Rome, Father Ortega said. But by the late 20th century, the bishops in Panama City fully endorsed the veneration, helping the annual gathering mushroom to its present size. The modern ceremony has attracted some criticism for the bloody acts of penance undertaken; for instance, a few of the faithful drag their knees on the rocky road into the village. Father Ortega said the acts of penance are carried out by only a handful of worshippers and are not the most important aspect of the ceremony. “The media tend to focus on the blood rather than the other beautiful things,” he said. In the last three annual ceremonies, some 50,000 devotees have prayed around the statue before breaking into a night of singing and dancing until dawn. The Black Christ put onto a huge wooden base more than 60 feet long. One hundred and fifty men then carry the statue through the streets, while dancing to lively rhythms bashed out on congas.



### St. Matthew Catholic Church presents

## A Symposium on St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the Year of St. Paul. In preparation for this anniversary year we will be presenting the following talks:

Feb. 28: “Rethinking God...After His Appearance”- Fr. Patrick Cahill, Ph.L., Catholic University of America; M.Div. and M.A. (Scriptural Theology), St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Apr. 3: “The Pope Speaks...‘Honoring Paul’” - Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, will focus on Pope Benedict’s encyclical “Spe Salvi” (Saved by Hope) and its connection to St. Paul’s thought.

Apr. 24: “A Church Built on Gifts and Propelled by the Spirit”- Susan Brady, MA, Biblical Studies, Providence College. For over 35 years she has taught high school youth and adults, lectured in churches of many denominations, given retreats, and taught week-long summer seminars on some aspect of the Bible.

May 15: “Greeting the Greeks; Hailing the Hellenists” – Watching Paul as he engaged ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Fr. Christopher Schreck, S.T.B., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; S.S.I. (Licentiate in Sacred Scripture), Pontifical Biblical Institute; Ph.D. S.T.D., Catholic University of Leuven; past Chair, Dept. of Sacred Scripture, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; author of many articles published in academic journals. Fr. Schreck brings great insight into the New Testament and, specifically, St. Paul.

All programs are 7-8:30pm in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center.

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## Buzzing geography



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Pictured are the participants of the school-level National Geography Bee at St. Michael School in Gastonia Jan. 23. One student represented each fourth- through eighth-grade classroom. The first-place winner was sixth-grader MacKenzie Hawley, who advances to state-level. Those winners are eligible to compete in the National Geographic Bee championships in Washington, D.C., May 20-21.

Pictured (from left): fourth-grader Brendan Hahn, second-place winner; eighth-grader Elizabeth Munns; sixth-grader MacKenzie Hawley, first-place winner; seventh-grader Kaleb Rostmeyer; and fifth-grader Dean Gamble, third-place winner.

The National Geographic Bee, an educational program of the National Geographic Society, is a nationwide geography competition for U.S. schools with grades four through eight, designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography.



Left: Pictured are sixth-grader Joshua Markwell (right) and fifth-grader Walker Robinson, the winner and runner up (respectively) of the school-wide National Geographic Bee at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Jan. 18.

Joshua advances to the state level competition, to compete against other school winners in Raleigh April 4.

State-level winners will compete in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C., May 20-21.

## Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [fajm@st-joseph.com](mailto:fajm@st-joseph.com)

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## Celebrating culture



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Afro-American Cultural Center perform with and for students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte Feb. 11, part of a school celebration of Black History Month. The cultural center performances for various grades taught students about the various forms of music and the importance of African-American women in history.



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Instructor Tony Morris leads students in kicking exercises during tae kwon do class Jan. 25, part of the spring semester's fine arts elective program at Asheville Catholic School.

## From side kicks to photography, students study the arts at Asheville Catholic

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — First a bow, then a kick. That's how students enrolled in tae kwon do began the spring semester's fine arts elective program at Asheville Catholic School Jan. 25.

The fine arts electives allow middle school students to pursue one of three activities — martial arts, photography and filmmaking — every Friday afternoon throughout the semester.

Junior Master Tony Morris of Asheville Sun Yi's Tae Kwon Do led the martial arts class, one of 15 sessions during which students will practice the five tenets of Korean martial art — courtesy, integrity, self control, indomitable spirit and perseverance.

"Technique is everything," said Morris, a fourth-degree black belt with more than 20 years of experience.

His class will help students develop character and self-defense throughout the semester. But first, he taught them to show respect. They were to address him as "sir" or "Mr. Morris," and to bow and acknowledge each other by name when they begin each session.

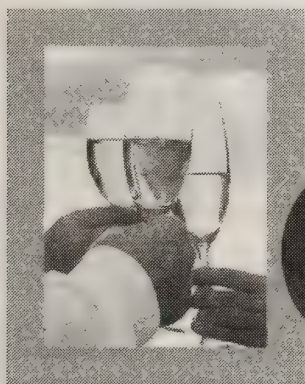
In the photography class, professional photographer Moni Taylor will teach students light, composition and the art of both color and black-and-white photography. Her main goal for the class is to teach the students photography as art and to view it in new ways. By focusing their visions, she said, they could create art from almost nothing.

Students will learn to take photos in four styles: portrait, landscape, urban and journalistic. Through weekly assignments and field trips, they will have opportunities to shoot numerous subjects. At the end of the semester, they will present their work.

In the third elective class, students are learning the art and science of making movies.

Taught by Curt Arledge, program development director for Asheville's public access channel URTV, the class will learn how to operate film and editing equipment, write scripts and then create a four- to seven-minute film.

The short film will be aired on URTV.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Fasting for justice

*Christ's followers are obliged to identify with the less fortunate*

Fasting is not easy. It's a difficult Lenten practice to embrace. After all, eating good food is one of life's joys. But too much of even a good thing is unhealthy.

For those of us who consume more than we should, eating less or denying ourselves fattening treats improves not only our physical health, but aids our spiritual life as well.

Saying no to the urge to eat more helps build the discipline we need to say no to the more serious temptations — like self-centeredness — thrust at us by Satan.

Fasting is meant to help us temper our desires and concentrate more on the needs of others. And if it doesn't do that, it's nothing more than a form of dieting.

Fasting is not an end in itself. Rather, fasting should serve as a means to a more compassionate lifestyle.

By denying ourselves a bit of food, we begin in a very small way to experience hunger. And that taste of hunger should lead us to a higher level of concern for the countless men, women and children who suffer the terrible pains of hunger and poverty every day.

Our highly consumerist society with its constant bombardment of messages to buy more things we simply do not need tempts us to ignore the genuine needs of the poor.

So instead of giving from our substance, as Pope John Paul II urged, we throw crumbs to the poor from our abundance.

The U.S. government does the same thing. The former chair of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, Bishop John Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., said, "The United States is the richest nation on earth. And it is a scandal that we are the last among the industrialized nations in terms of per capita spending on development

### Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



assistance for the poorest countries in the world."

As Catholic citizens we need to urge local, state and national public officials to permanently fast from indifference toward the poor and greatly increase funds for poverty reduction.

In the Book of Isaiah, the prophet reveals the kind of fast that is truly pleasing to God: "To loose the bonds of injustice ... to let the oppressed go free ... to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them."

Because most of us are not suffering from injustice, not oppressed, not hungry, not homeless, not poor or naked, we don't really understand the pain of those who do suffer these cruelties.

As followers of the Christ, who made himself poor, we are obliged to find ways to identify with those who have so little. And fasting is a way to begin. But we should not stop there.

Educating ourselves on the causes of hunger and poverty, assisting at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter, volunteering to help programs like Habitat for Humanity and sponsoring a child in the developing world are some of the ways we can begin to understand and respond to the pain of those who suffer.

"Then," in the words of Isaiah, our "light shall break forth like the dawn"; we will call out and "the Lord will answer ... 'Here I am.'"

## Self-sacrifice in the defense of life

*What kind of disciples do we want to be?*

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Though he was God, he humbled himself to come among us as an embryo. He was born in a stable, worked as a humble carpenter and now he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey knowing he will be betrayed, rejected and crucified.

Christ's Passion reminds us of how great his love is for us. He humbled himself and willingly submitted to such tremendous suffering for us.

The Passion should remind us of our dignity and the dignity of each and every human being created in the likeness of God.

Cardinal John Henry Newman points out that even if you were the only sinner in the world, Jesus would have undergone his Passion just for you. We are made in the image and likeness of God, redeemed by his blood. Our destiny is to share everlasting happiness with him in heaven.

This dignity belongs to every human being from the moment of conception to natural death. If we fail to appreciate our dignity in the eyes of God or out of sinful pride reject God in his commandments, then we will begin to evaluate others falsely by wealth, health, prestige, outward appearance, size and stage of development.

Many live as if there was no God or they make themselves like gods or claim rights that belong to God alone — who lives, who dies, interfering with God's plan for procreation through contraception, in-vitro fertilization, abortion, cloning and experimenting on human embryos, euthanasia or physician assisted suicide.

We can be tempted to separate ourselves from others, caring only about ourselves and our families alone, with little thought given to eternal life or correcting injustices. But Jesus taught us that we must imitate his humble service.

He taught us the way to salvation was to take up our own cross and follow him.

A true follower of Christ will not be afraid to make sacrifices and even face death. By his death and resurrection, Jesus has taken away the sting of death.

Shortly before his own death, Pope John Paul II said: "We must get used to thinking confidently about the mystery of death so that the definitive encounter with God occurs in a climate of interior peace."

Christians don't fear death, but nor do they cause death. When the early Christians embraced the faith, they rejected abortion and infanticide that were common at that time.

The Second Vatican Council called abortion and euthanasia infamies that poison human society. It said they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer the injury.

### Guest Column

FATHER PETER  
WEST  
GUEST COLUMNIST



Sin always hurts the sinner more than anyone. Judas and Pontius Pilate did more to harm themselves than they did to hurt Jesus.

A woman who had an abortion once said to me about her abortion "The baby dies once, but the woman dies a little bit every day." But the good news is that Christ died for sinners. And through Rachel's Vineyard retreats and other post abortion ministries, we promote a message of forgiveness and hope.

All of us are called by Christ to serve, to spread his Gospel of mercy and life. What kind of disciples will we be? Will we be like the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Apostle and St. Mary Magdalene who stood faithfully at the foot of the cross?

Or will we be like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed him, Pontius Pilate who condemned an innocent man or the crowd who called out for Barabbas?

Ask God to help you recognize your dignity as a child of God who died for you. Pray that God will help you to protect the dignity of others, especially those most threatened.

Through the Eucharist, which Christ left us as a memorial of his suffering and death, may he give us the strength to build a culture of life.

*Father West is a priest associate with Priests for Life.*

Read about Father West's visit to Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro on page 1.

## Lenten Sacrifice



### ABSTINENCE

No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.



### FASTING

A limit of one full meatless meal by those 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.



### SELF-DENIAL

Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.



### PRAYER and CHARITY

Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Considering the Catholic concept of marriage

*Points of light in a culture that shrugs off commitment*

When a National Football League coach's commitment to return next season rates a news conference, when a popular movie's title for the marriage commitment is "Definitely, Maybe," it is refreshing to hear a more accurate view of commitment.

A nationwide survey of U.S. Catholics' attitudes and practices regarding marriage was released earlier this month by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington.

Commissioned by the U.S. bishops, the survey found marriage patterns among Catholics consistent with all Americans: 53 percent married, 25 percent never married, 12 percent divorced, five percent widowed, four percent living with a partner and one percent separated.

While the survey may cause bishops as teachers some concern about Catholics' knowledge of church teachings concerning marriage, it offers much, suggesting that a plurality are living out the quality of marriage that those very church teachings are meant to bring about.

Eighty-seven per cent said their views are at least somewhat consistent with the belief that marriage is a lifelong commitment. Slightly over half feel the same about marriage being a calling from God or a vocation.

Pretty good numbers in a culture that shrugs off commitment.

Much was made of the coach

returning, but little was said about the contract that committed him to another term. Doesn't that count?

The movie's theme centers around a divorced father recounting to his young daughter his earlier love life, having her guess which of the three women her mother is.

Neither is the model of commitment.

The survey sought opinions on how Catholic marriage differs from the concept of marriage in secular society or other faiths. Common themes of many responses mentioned the sacramental nature of marriage, the presence of God at the wedding and in their marriage, and a stronger, long-lasting commitment.

There were some difficulties in correctly answering questions about raising children Catholic and specific teaching on divorce.

"Not surprisingly, the study paints a mixed picture," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., chair of the sponsoring committee. "It gives us reasons to be grateful and hopeful. It also raises concerns and presents us with challenges."

Surveys filled with relational databases to be crosschecked can be chock full of information. Often lost in the demographics, numbers and percentages is the humanity.

The CARA survey, in an appendix, provided answers to open-ended questions. Reading page after page of

## Extra! Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



these brief replies limited to 100 words is to overhear thoughtful reflections.

Some are inspiring, some are poignant, a few humorous. All seem to concretize a theology of marriage.

"I have a wonderful husband and our problems are few and far between," wrote one woman. "Our thoughts are so close together and we work on whatever comes our way and manage to sort things out. That is what marriage is all about."

"Faith plays an important part when problems arise," wrote another. "Prayer and faith help to resolve all issues."

"Love is a choice made daily and not a romantic interlude," one respondent noted.

Asked about important values, one person said, "Complete trust of each other in everything. Honesty, concern and love for the welfare of the other."

However, in the "I bet you wish you didn't say that" category, responding to how Catholic marriage differs, another answered, "We believe the man should be in control."

Not all responses, of course, were positive. Many stated they saw no distinct difference between Catholic and secular marriage.

"The Catholic concept of marriage is somewhat out of date with the fast changing world," one person replied.

To that may we say amen and thanks be to God.

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



another beautiful insight on how to cope with aging. During his papacy he was forever emphasizing the human dignity of the person.

More than this, he believed that God's breath is in each of us.

The word "enthusiasm" comes from the Greek, meaning God's spirit/breath is within us. When the divine energy in enthusiasm combines with the human energy of imagination, we have a perfect formula for staying young at heart.

To cope with the fears of aging, three basic principles of our faith must be kept alive:

1. Believing that God's living breath is within us and is at the heart of our enthusiasm.

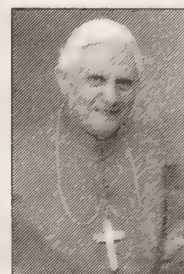
2. Imagining what God's will is for us in our particular stage of life.

3. Maintaining our God-given gift of humanity in the midst of debilitating aches and pains.

## Pope says Lent is time to live as witnesses of charity

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said Lent is a time for Christians to live as "witnesses of charity," demonstrating that love is a defining characteristic of their faith.

"Lent is a privileged time for all Christians to recommit themselves to conversion and spiritual renewal. In this way, we rekindle a genuine faith in Christ, a life-giving relationship with God and a more fervent dedication to the Gospel," the pope said at his general audience Feb. 20.

"Strengthened by the conviction that love is the distinguishing mark of Christian believers, I encourage you to persevere in bearing witness to charity in your daily lives," he said.

The pope continued his series of audience talks on St. Augustine, citing numerous works that have influenced the life of the church and helped form Western culture.

St. Augustine's best-known work was "Confessions," in which he confessed his own weaknesses and praised God's grace and mercy, the pope said.

The "Confessions" had a great impact even in St. Augustine's day. The pope quoted the saint as acknowledging that the work had "pleased many of my brothers."

Looking up from his text, the pope said with a smile, "And I have to say that I am one of these brothers."

The packed audience hall broke into applause.

The pope wrote his doctoral thesis on the notion of the people of God in St. Augustine, and the fifth-century theologian and bishop has influenced deeply the pope's own writings.

In his audience talk, the pope explained that while St. Augustine was a great intellectual, he dedicated much of his life to more simple pastoral works and sermons.

The saint once suspended his dictation of the great work, "De Trinitate" (On the Trinity), because he thought the writing was too difficult for all but a few people, and he wanted to spend more time on pastoral tracts, the pope said.

"So it was more useful for him to communicate the faith in a comprehensive way to everyone rather than write great theological works," the pope said.

Rather than closing himself off from others, St. Augustine lived his life in dialogue with God and with other people, he said.

"Although Augustine is renowned for his towering intellect and vast body of writings, his primary concern was always to spread the Christian message," said the pope.

## From aging agelessly to staying young at heart

*God's breath is in each one of us, guiding us always*

When actor Charles Durning received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the 14th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards show, he recalled a time he considered leaving the acting business:

"When I said I was ready to quit, my wife Mary Ann said, 'Yeah? Then what?'"

As I chuckled upon hearing this, I recalled an article by Jesuit Father Myles Sheehan, who is also a physician.

He points out, "There is something profoundly wrong in thinking that older persons need to rest and be entertained, ... to watch TV and listen to someone play old songs on the piano."

One of Father Sheehan's major concerns is what he calls "aging apartheid," which translates into "placing older persons in old-age communities or facilities where the old and sick are clustered together."

"Sometimes the biggest threats to health in aging are not a lack of medical resources," Father Sheehan contends, "but a lack of imagination in how we envision the life and role in the

community of older persons, and how we welcome the elderly into the church.

"Health and aging require a broad look at what it means to be human."

Albert Einstein once said that "imagination is more important than knowledge."

When we study the lives of elderly people who were extremely productive and inspiring, we learn their secret to success was imagination. Take, for example, elderly actors and actresses who played imaginative, elderly roles that inspired us to be exemplary elders.

Many of the saints who lived to old age were forever seeking creative ways for increasing their selflessness and service. As old and hampered by a bad heart as Mother Theresa was, she taught us more in her old age about how to give 100 percent of one's self than she did when she was young.

Thanks to the indefatigable imagination of these elders, we possess awesome lessons from people who never retired, despite their infirmities.

Pope John Paul II gives us yet





# AN INVITATION TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual  
Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!  
Sunday, March 9      2 pm–6:15 pm

## It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim

COLOSSIANS 1: 28

*Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to  
the Diocesan Youth Lenten Pilgrimage at  
Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at exit 26).*



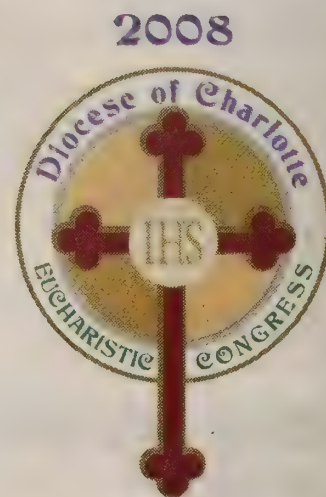
Bishop Peter Jugis



Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder



**It Is Christ  
Whom We Proclaim**

Colossians 1: 28

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop, Diocese of Charlotte;  
Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; and Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

### Your day also will include:

- Campus tours
- Praise and worship music
- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Make pledge to the Holy Spirit
- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Information at [www.GoEucharist.com](http://www.GoEucharist.com)





# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

## Perspectives

Ego terrorism solution;  
a look at the new Eve;  
letters to the editor

| PAGES 14-15

VOLUME 17 No 18

## To be free of sin

Parishioners  
examine the 'Joy of  
Reconciliation'

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM —  
The sacrament of reconciliation  
is a gift from Jesus to set people  
free from sins, said Conventual  
Franciscan Jude DeAngelo.

Father DeAngelo, Catholic  
campus minister at Wake Forest  
University, discussed "The Joy  
of Reconciliation" at St. Leo  
the Great Church in Winston-  
Salem Feb. 21.

With the parable of the  
Prodigal Son as the basis for his  
presentation, Father DeAngelo  
tied together Gospel quotes  
and other books of the New  
Testament to emphasize God's  
love and mercy for his people  
and his desire to reunite sinners  
with his eternal kingdom.

See PENANCE, page 5

## Analyzing affiliation

Lower number of U.S.  
Catholics offset by new  
immigrants, study says

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON —  
According to a new study on  
the religious affiliation of U.S.  
adults, 28 percent of Americans  
have either changed religious  
affiliations or claim no formal  
religion at all.

The study also shows the

See STUDY, page 7

## Seeing Christ's suffering, expressing his love



COURTESY PHOTO

Youths present the Way of the Cross, which depicts Christ's passion, at St. Therese Church in Mooresville Feb. 8.

Youths present Way of  
the Cross during Lent

MOORESVILLE —  
Teenagers recently walked in  
Christ's footsteps.

Youth ministry members  
presented a living Stations  
of the Cross on the first two  
Fridays of Lent at St. Therese  
Church in Mooresville.

The Stations, or Way, of  
the Cross is a popular Lenten  
practice in Western churches,  
with portrayals of Christ's  
passion held during the weeks  
leading up to Easter.

"The teens presented a  
powerful 'freeze frame'  
meditation of the Lord's passion  
through the 14 stations," said  
Rosemary Hyman, parish  
communications coordinator.  
"The power and reverence of  
their performance brought to  
life the power of Jesus' love  
for us, and the depths of the  
suffering he endured to ransom  
us from the sin of this world."

"Our teens demonstrated  
once again how blessed our  
parish is to have such dedicated  
and capable young Christians  
in our community," she said.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Thomas Awiapo speaks to diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office volunteer Linh  
Pham at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Feb. 14.

## From shoeless to success

Ghanaian proves how CRS is making a  
difference for many overseas

BY THE CATHOLIC  
NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Feeding  
both stomachs and minds is  
essential in the fight against  
poverty, said a representative  
of Catholic Relief Services.

"Education is the only tool  
that can bring down poverty,"  
said Thomas Awiapo, a native  
of Ghana, who spoke to 30  
employees of the Diocese of  
Charlotte at the diocesan

Pastoral Center in Charlotte  
Feb. 14.

Awiapo, who works as a  
senior program officer for CRS  
in Ghana, visited U.S. cities as  
part of a Lenten "Food Security  
Tour" on behalf of CRS and  
Operation Rice Bowl.

CRS, the U.S. bishops'  
international relief and  
development agency, sponsored

See CRS, page 8



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## RELEASING THE ART WITHIN



CNS PHOTO BY PAT MORRISON, SISTERS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Surrounded by woodworking tools, Precious Blood Sister Eileen Tomlinson works on a 70-pound walnut log in Dayton, Ohio, defining the basic form of a statue of her order's foundress, Mother Maria Anna Brunner. The 90-year-old artist spent up to two hours a day for four months on the carving.

## At age 90, Precious Blood sister who is an artist still going strong

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Most people looking at a block of wood or stone see a block of wood or stone. But Precious Blood Sister Eileen Tomlinson apparently thinks like the great Renaissance artist Michelangelo.

According to legend, Michelangelo said that when he looked at a block of marble he saw the figure within, waiting to be released.

Last winter, Sister Tomlinson looked at a large log of walnut wood and saw more than what met the eye. She saw Mother Maria Anna Brunner, the Swiss-born foundress of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

And she soon went to work to free her.

In their 162-year history, the Dayton-based Sisters of the Precious Blood have had no shortage of talented women, artists who work in almost every medium. But Sister Tomlinson's talents range across an incredibly wide artistic spectrum: oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, pen-and-ink illustration, calligraphy, sculpture and woodcarving.

Trained as an artist, Sister Tomlinson was an art teacher for many years in Ohio and California before she "retired" to the motherhouse in Dayton's Salem Heights area in 1997.

Since then she has been the unofficial artist-in-residence at the motherhouse, in constant demand for her artistic work.

The newest statue of Mother Brunner is just one in a long line of smaller predecessors. For several years now,

Sister Tomlinson's statuettes of the foundress, in different sizes, have graced displays at congregational events and have been given as gifts to sisters for special occasions.

Because of the demand for the statues, it was impossible for Sister Tomlinson to keep making them herself. From her original sculpture, resin copies were made, but even now that they're commercially produced, Sister Tomlinson still adds her personal touch: She lovingly hand-colors each one.

The time commitment and sheer physical labor involved in transforming a large piece of wood into a finished statue are considerable. Wielding a heavy carver's mallet and carving tools is a challenge at any age — and Sister Tomlinson celebrated her 90th birthday last year.

But she was undeterred in beginning this labor of love.

"I guess I am just so fond of Mother Brunner that I felt I wanted to help out," she explained.

A donor provided the large walnut log. Almost 3 feet tall and 17 inches in diameter, the log weighed 70 pounds.

She devoted up to two hours a day on the carving, from mid-January through most of April 2007.

Last fall, the carving of the foundress was blessed and enshrined in a place of honor at the Maria Stein Center. There, Sister Tomlinson's labor of love is now enjoyed by many pilgrims.

## Cuban bishops hope new president will respond to demands of citizens

HAVANA (CNS) — Cuba's Catholic bishops expressed hope that the country's new president, Raul Castro, and the governing council he heads will respond decisively to the demands of the island-nation's citizens.

In a Feb. 25 statement, the Cuban bishops' conference said it prayed that the legislature, known as the National Assembly of People's Power, the governing Council of State and the president would move ahead "decisively (with) transcendental measures that we know must be progressive."

The bishops said they hoped the moves "can begin to satisfy the longings and concerns expressed by Cubans."

The statement referred to the call made by the island's "top authorities" in September and October for Cubans to debate "the most urgent problems of all kinds" that were affecting the people.

Raul Castro was chosen Feb. 24 to replace his brother, Fidel Castro, who resigned because of illness after nearly half a century in power. Fidel Castro temporarily handed his duties over to Raul Castro July 31, 2006.

The bishops said they prayed, as they did in 2006, that "nothing will perturb the greater good of peace."

They said that the official designation of Raul Castro as president and the coinciding official pastoral visit to Cuba by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, were events "of an exceptional nature."

Cardinal Bertone's Feb. 20-26 trip was 10 years after Pope John Paul II's historic 1998 visit to Cuba. Before leaving Feb. 26, Cardinal Bertone was scheduled to become the first foreign official to meet with the nation's new president.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — "Extreme Faith 2008: It Is Christ We Proclaim!" The annual diocesan gathering for middle school youth will be held at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., 10 a.m. March 15. For more information, call the church office at (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — A Taizé prayer service is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taizé is a meditative prayer that mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A Catholic Scripture Study group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. For more information or if you plan to attend, please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 or visit [www.catholicscripturestudy.com](http://www.catholicscripturestudy.com).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the St. Gabriel Church disability Ministry will honor those with mental retardation and developmental disabilities at the 5 p.m. Mass March 2. Parishioners and visitors with varying degrees of mental retardation and developmental disabilities will provide the music and serve as greeters, readers and ushers. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy at (704) 364-6964.

CHARLOTTE — A workshop for parents of school-age children with developmental disabilities will be held in the New Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., 9 a.m.-12 p.m. March 8. Bree Jimenez with Charlotte Mecklenburg School system and UNC-Charlotte will answer questions and provide assistance to parents. Free, no registration required. For more information, call Katherine Trela at (704) 849-8044.

CHARLOTTE — "Watch With Me," a Lenten retreat for men, will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St., 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday, March 15. All men interested in setting aside some personal time for a morning of reflection are welcome to attend. Watch and pray with the Lord as he experiences the anguish, fear and disappointment during his agony in the garden. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. For more information, e-mail Joe Breen at [joebreen62@aol.com](mailto:joebreen62@aol.com).

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will be awarding the 4th annual Gene Marie Alfaro scholarship in memory of their sister, Gene Marie, to a graduating high school senior who will be pursuing a career in the nursing or health care fields. This year, in addition to the \$1,000 scholarship, two additional \$500 awards will be given. The application needs to be submitted no later than April 7th, 2008. If interested, please call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover presents "The History of the Catholic Church" Saturdays during Lent (March 1, 15) 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Topics include the early church, the church of the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation and aftermath, the Council of Trent and aftermath, and Vatican II highlights. All are welcome. No admission fee. To register, contact Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Noted researcher Kevin Moran will discuss the history and scientific scrutiny of the Shroud of Turin at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., 7 p.m. March 5. The event is free and open to the public. Moran is a parishioner of the church and member of the Shroud of Turin Research Project and other guilds and societies dedicated to discovering the shroud's secrets.

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican diplomat: Catholics, Muslims must learn more about religions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics and Muslims must learn more about each other's religions if they want to get along better, said the Vatican ambassador in Egypt and former president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

"Rather than just knowing persons, we must know their religion more deeply in order to understand the people," Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald told Vatican Radio.

The archbishop was interviewed Feb. 24, the evening before the annual Catholic-Muslim dialogue meeting of Vatican representatives with members of Cairo's al-Azhar University.

"We know that among Muslims and Christians there are common points, although certainly not a common faith in Christ," Archbishop Fitzgerald said.

"We must respect the differences while trying to find spheres in which it would be possible to collaborate and help

one another," he said.

The dialogue with the Cairo-based university, a point of reference for many Muslims around the world, was marking its 10th annual session.

Archbishop Fitzgerald said the theme chosen for the meeting was "Faith in God and Love for One's Neighbor as a Foundation for Interreligious Dialogue."

"I hope that this can give a new impulse to relations between Christians and Muslims in the world," he said.

Pointing to the October letter of 138 Muslim scholars to Pope Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders, the archbishop said there are signs that Muslims are increasingly interested in dialogue with Christians.

"It makes me very happy to see their initiative," he said. And the fact that the scholars' letter focused on love of God and love of neighbor, two key points for Christians, "gives new hope for reaching a deeper dialogue."

**BELMONT** — House of Mercy's 15th Annual Walk for AIDS will take place April 5. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by the walk through historic downtown Belmont at 10 a.m. A picnic reception featuring live music will follow on the House of Mercy grounds located on the Sisters of Mercy campus. Additional information about House of Mercy and the Walk for AIDS is available at [www.thehouseofmercy.org](http://www.thehouseofmercy.org).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

**STONEVILLE** — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Lenten mini retreat, led by Father Louis Canino, March 13 at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd. Gathering starts at 10 a.m. Carpools leave at 9:15 a.m. from St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro. For more information, please contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

**HICKORY** — "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding," the annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service, sponsored by Church Women United (which includes women from St. Aloysius, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Catholic churches), will be held at 7 p.m. March 7 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 629 8th Street NE. The service will include music and a guest speaker. To attend or for more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

**HICKORY** — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

**MOORESVILLE** — Jesuit Father Currie will lead "From Darkness Lead Me to Light," a parish mission, 7:30 p.m. March 3-5 at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. Nightly topics will cover the necessary and sufficient conditions for a fruitful spiritual life and ministry. A reception will follow the March 5 session. Babysitting available. For more information, contact Rosemary Hyman at (704) 664-3992, ext. 315.

**MOORESVILLE** — St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. For more information, call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572.

**SALISBURY** — Our Lady Rosary Makers of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

**MURPHY** — Rev. Ben Bushyhead of the Eastern Cherokee will lead the reflection at an *ecumenical Lenten service* 12-12:30 p.m. March 5 at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The service is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

**KERNERSVILLE** — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. For information or directions, call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382

## Everyone is responsible for caring for environment, says U.N. nuncio

NEW YORK (CNS) — Ongoing debate about climate change "has helped put into focus the inescapable responsibility of one and all to care for the environment," the Vatican's U.N. nuncio told the U.N. General Assembly Feb. 13.

This has resulted in "building consensus around the common objective of promoting a healthy environment for present and future generations," he said.

The underlying theme in the nuncio's statement to the 62nd session of the General Assembly was that a concern for humanity, in particular for those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, translates into a concern for the environment.

"Thus we are better equipped to adopt strategies and policies which balance the needs of humanity with the urgency for a more responsible stewardship," he said.

He restated the Holy See's commitment to implementing the goals and objectives set out in the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bali, held Dec. 3-14, 2007, and the "personal commitment and numerous public appeals of Pope Benedict XVI," who has called for "a renewed sense of respect for and the need to safeguard God's creation."

He noted that individuals and communities have started to change their lifestyle, knowing that "personal and collective behavior impacts climate and the overall health of the environment," and added that even the smallest effort "to reduce or offset one's carbon footprint" shows commitment to the environment.

Archbishop Migliore reminded the assembly that the Vatican has already taken steps to reduce and offset the carbon emissions of Vatican City State through the use of solar panels, to be installed this year on its audience hall, and its collaboration in a reforestation project in Hungary.

He explained that sustainable economic development must "take into account the demands of environmental preservation, climate change, economic development and basic human needs."

The archbishop also advocated the use of "clean technologies" as an important component of sustainable development.

It is important for highly industrialized societies to share with underdeveloped countries their more advanced and cleaner technologies to "avoid the errors that others committed in the past," he said.

## Moon over Jerusalem



CNS PHOTO BY ELIANA APONTE, REUTERS

The moon is seen from the Notre Dame Center of Jerusalem during a phase in a total lunar eclipse Feb. 21.

## Six U.S. prelates named as delegates, alternates to October synod

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Six U.S. bishops have been named as delegates or alternates to the October world Synod of Bishops that focuses on the Bible.

Among the delegates are the president and vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., respectively.

The other two delegates are Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., the immediate past USCCB president, has been named as an

alternate, as has Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The U.S. delegates and alternates were elected by the bishops' conference and ratified by the pope; their names were released in February.

The outline for the synod, scheduled for Oct. 5-26, emphasized Christian belief that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of the word of God and that the entire Bible can be understood only in reference to Jesus. The outline also mentioned the Bible as a potential source for promoting dialogue with other religions, particularly through explaining each other's sacred texts.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**March 5 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

**March 6 (10 a.m.)**  
Diocesan Foundation board meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**March 8 (5 p.m.)**  
Boy Scout Camporee Mass  
Camp Grimes, Nebo

**March 9 (3 p.m.)**  
Lenten pilgrimage  
Belmont Abbey, Belmont



## Catechists study prayer, work toward certification

MORGANTON — Catechists in the diocese recently spent a day with prayer.

As a continuation of its "Sowers of Seed" catechist training and adult faith formation enrichment series, the diocesan faith formation office's Central Region Leadership Team held "A Day with Prayer" workshops at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Feb. 16.

Approximately 40 participants took part in the English- and Spanish-language workshops that provided catechists with certification in the diocesan Catechist Recognition Process, a competency-based catechist formation process program.

There were two themes of the Spanish-language workshops: "The Bible and Catechesis" was led by Dario Garcia, Hickory Vicariate Hispanic ministry volunteer; and "The Creed and Catechesis" was led by Jose Cuahutemoc Gonzalez, Boone Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator.

The English-language workshops included a keynote address by Father Conrad Hoover, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Hoover spoke about the various forms of prayer, elaborating on specific prayer expressions such as the Jesus Prayer, "lectio divina" and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Father Hoover urged the audience to find and practice personally meaningful prayer methods and to set aside time for praying. He reminded them that while a "pray always" attitude is good, we cannot pray at all times without specific, intentional times of prayer.

Other segments included presentations by members of the Central Region Leadership Team. Mary Sorel, faith formation director at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro, offered information about temperamental prayer, in which prayer style is matched with personality type.

Dennis Teall-Fleming, faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Conrad Hoover speaks during "A Day with Prayer" at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Feb. 16.

formation director at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, led the group through the steps of "lectio divina" (praying with Scripture) using the first reading from the Liturgy of the Word for Sunday, Feb. 17.

Terri Martino, faith formation director at St. Charles Borromeo Church, divided participants into two choirs and led them through Morning Prayer, Matins, from the Liturgy of the Hours for that day.

To conclude the English-language workshop, Carol Brown, faith formation director for St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone, read aloud a guided meditation from the book "Nine Ways to Reach God."



The Office of Faith Formation is a ministry funded in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. The 2008 DSA campaign runs Feb. 2-March 9.

## Helping the hungry



COURTESY PHOTO

Frank Nash (right), a pastoral council member of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, is pictured with Valeria Chamberlain, director of Mooresville Christian Mission, and two unidentified mission employees outside the facility Feb. 14. Nash, who is also a board member of Mooresville Christian Mission, a crisis assistance ministry, was there as a truckload of almost 3,000 pounds of food was donated to the mission's food pantry.

In order to assist the mission in its ministry, the Community Life Commission of St. Therese Church offered to underwrite the cost of obtaining the food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte.

## Recognizing Couples for Christ



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, awards an official recognition by Bishop Peter J. Jugis to Arthur Aquino, unit servant leader of Couples for Christ, during a meeting at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 17.

The recognition endorses the 2005 decree by the Vatican approving Couples for Christ as an international, private association of the faithful.

Formally named Couples for Christ Global Mission Foundation, Couples for Christ is a Catholic organization founded in 1981 in the Philippines and is now in approximately 160 countries. Its mission is for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life.

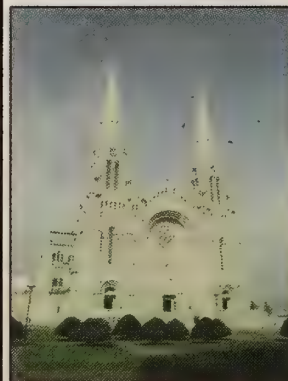
The organization has chapters for youths (Youths for Christ), single women (Handmaids of the Lord) and single men (Servants of the Lord).



Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

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## Baptized or bobbing?

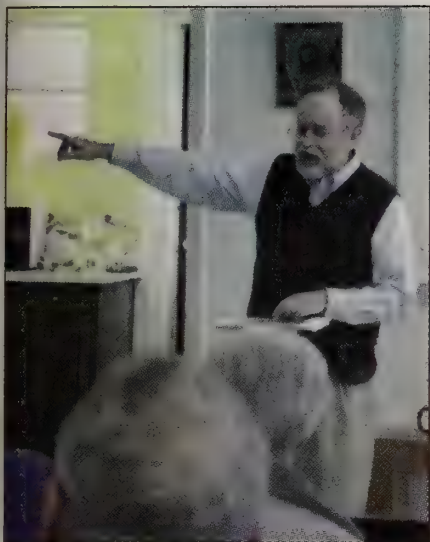


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Jim McCullough, director of religious education at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, discusses the topic "Were You Baptized? (Or Are You Just Bobbing Along?)" at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville Feb. 16. Baptism is one of the three sacraments of initiation (along with confirmation and first Communion) in the Catholic Church.

## Parishioners examine 'Joy of Reconciliation'

PENANCE, from page 1

The sacrament of reconciliation was given to the Catholic Church by Jesus on the day of his resurrection, said Father DeAngelo.

Jesus instituted the sacrament when he "breathed upon the college of Apostles and said, 'Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven ... retained,'" said Father DeAngelo. Thus, "the church is in charge of the form this sacrament was to take."

Reconciliation is to help humanity "change our hearts," said Father DeAngelo, and priests are given divine authority to forgive sins.

"This means that priests are not in the confessional to be judge and jury, but to administer God's mercy and forgiveness," he said.

An important item for people to remember, said Father DeAngelo, is that "in the sacrament of reconciliation, people are coming to Christ, not to the priest."

"It was Jesus' desire not to condemn



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo discusses the sacrament of reconciliation at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Feb. 21.

sinner but to set them free," he said.

When a sinner unveils his or her soul to Jesus in the person of the priest, the priest — acting in Jesus' name — forgives the confessed sins and offers a penance for the repentant sinner.

"Jesus is the greatest psychologist there ever was," said Father DeAngelo. "As the Son of God, Jesus knows human hearts. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses. Therefore, he understands that there needs to be human contact; that when the repentant sinner leaves the confessional reconciled, he knows that he has been touched by God and has been

reunited to the faith community."

Father DeAngelo traced the sacrament of reconciliation from its inception in the early church, when it was administered only once in a person's lifetime and with severe penances.

This changed over time, said Father DeAngelo. By the 11th century, for example, Irish monks were administering it more often with less severe penances.

After Vatican II, the sacrament was emphasized as the "resurgence of the church's administration of God's love," said Father DeAngelo.

Today, he said, the sacrament should be received at least once a month and without "laundry lists of sins" to confess, even if only to gain the graces attached to the sacrament.

"For reconciliation is not the cleansing of sin only ... but the reconciliation of the sinner to the community," said Father DeAngelo. "Therefore, there is a need to look for remedies without feeling guilty over silly stuff. At the same time, there must be a healthy examination of conscience."

Audience members took away a new outlook on the sacrament.

"I discovered that it's OK to be human," said parishioner Bunny Pittman. "We must know that God is almighty, but that he is always with us. He knows more than we know what it is to be human."

### DID YOU KNOW?

The sacrament of reconciliation can be administered according to three different rites: individual confession and absolution, a communal penance service with individual confession, and absolution or a communal penance service with generic confession and general absolution.

The use of the third rite is permitted only when certain strict conditions are met.

Confession is only part of the sacrament of reconciliation, not another term for the sacrament. Absolution is the sacramental act by the priest freeing penitents of their sins.

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## Sister Merry Marcotte: 1942-2008

*Sister of Providence studied, served in Diocese of Charlotte*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Sister Merry Marcotte, a member of the Sisters of Providence who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died Feb. 17 at Marian Home in Louisville, Ky. She was 65.

A funeral Mass was celebrated in Immaculate Conception Church in Louisville Feb. 22. Burial followed in the cemetery of the Sisters of Providence.

A native of Detroit, Ill., Sister Marcotte was born Oct. 10, 1942. She entered the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., in 1974. She professed first vows Aug. 15, 1976 and final vows Aug. 15, 1984.

Before entering the religious life, she served with the American Red Cross in a military hospital in Vietnam.

Sister Marcotte later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree from Duke University in Durham.

During her 33 years as a Sister of Providence, she served as a foreign student advisor at Immaculata College in Washington, D.C., and director of United Southside Community Organization's adult education program in Indianapolis, Ind.

In 1981 she began parish ministry



Sister of Providence Merry Marcotte

in Illinois, Indiana and North Carolina — serving at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone 1985-86.

In the 1990s, she worked in a variety of ministries in Indiana and Ohio, including domestic violence outreach and a self-sufficiency program.

She served on the board of trustees of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College from 2002 until 2007, when she resigned for health reasons.

Sister Marcotte is survived by a brother, Charles Marcotte, of Houston, Texas.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana 47876.

## A step toward priesthood

*Seminarian receives rite of admission to candidacy*



COURTESY PHOTO

Benjamin Roberts (center), a seminarian with the Diocese of Charlotte, is pictured after receiving his rite of admission to candidacy at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnwood, Pa., Feb. 16. Roberts, a parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, was among 19 seminarians received as candidates by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph R. Cistone of Philadelphia.

The rite is celebrated during the seminarian's third year of graduate theological study at the seminary and is a requirement before ordination to the transitional diaconate.

Pictured (from left): Father David Diamond, seminary vice rector; Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Philadelphia; Roberts; Bishop Cistone; and Msgr. Joseph G. Prior, seminary rector.

## Caribbean breeze



COURTESY PHOTO

Several participants in a recent diocesan trip to the Panama Canal and other Caribbean ports enjoy the sunshine and breeze aboard Holland America's MS Volendam Feb. 10. Twenty-four travelers escaped the winter weather to relax and explore the various cultures and natural beauty of that part of the world. For details on the next diocesan adventure to the Lake Country and the treasures of northern Italy, see the ad on page 5.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

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Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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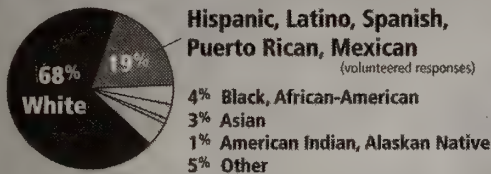
## FROM THE COVER

## U.S. Catholics: Race and Ethnicity

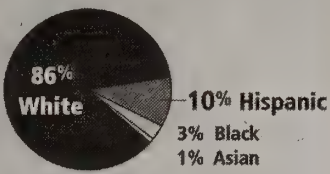
A look at two polls 20 years apart shows an increase in the number of U.S. Catholics claiming Latino ancestry.

## What is your race?

2007



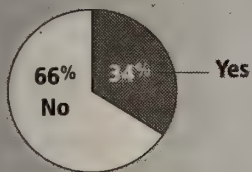
1987



Information for the 2007 poll was conducted using the preferred language of the person interviewed, either English or Spanish. The 1987 was conducted in English only. The 2007 poll was conducted with a random sample of 1,091 self-identified Catholics. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Percentages rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
©2008 CNS

## Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino descent?



## Study: Drop in U.S. Catholics offset by immigrants

STUDY, from page 1

Catholic Church has been hardest hit by these shifts, but that the influx of Catholic immigrants has offset the loss.

So, the percentage of the adult population that identifies itself as Catholic has held fairly steady at around 25 percent, it says.

The 148-page study, "U.S. Religious Landscape Survey," was conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life and based on interviews with 35,000 adults last year. Its findings, released Feb. 25, show that roughly 10 percent of all Americans are former Catholics. Almost half of these former Catholics joined Protestant denominations, while about half do not have a religious

affiliation and a small percentage chose other faiths.

"If everyone raised Catholic stayed (with their religious affiliation), Catholics would be one-third of the population," said John Green, a senior research fellow and a principal author of the study.

In a Feb. 25 teleconference with reporters, Green attributed the shifts in religious affiliation to "lifecycle effects," or the changes young people make when they are on their own. He also said the changes in religious affiliation could be explained in part by the diversity of today's American society where there are "a greater number of options."

The Catholic Church was not the only religious affiliation to lose members. Study researchers said they found an overall fluidity of religious affiliation.

Baptists experienced a net loss of 3.7 percent and Methodists lost 2.1 percent.

Figures relating to the Catholic Church show that 31.4 percent of adults in the United States said they were raised Catholic while only 23.9 percent of them identify with the Catholic Church today, giving the church a net loss of 7.5 percent.

"Everybody in this country is losing members; everybody is gaining members," said Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, during the teleconference. "It is a very competitive marketplace and if you rest on your laurels, you're going to be history."

According to the survey, 78.4 percent of Americans are Christians, about 5 percent belong to other faith traditions and 16.1 percent are unaffiliated with any religion, which the survey described as the fastest-growing religious category in America.

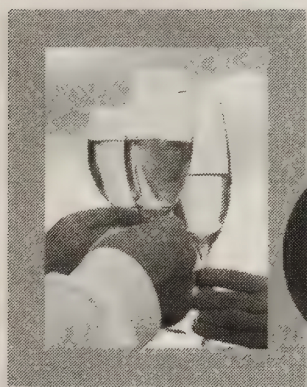
The respondents who said they were not affiliated with any particular faith today are more than double the number who said they weren't affiliated with any particular religion as children. Among Americans ages 18-29, one-quarter say they are not currently affiliated with any particular religion. The survey's researchers said the study also confirms that the United States is "on the verge of becoming a minority Protestant country."

Although roughly 51 percent of Americans said they are members of Protestant denominations, the study points to "significant internal diversity and fragmentation" among Protestants where "hundreds of different denominations (are) loosely grouped around three fairly distinct religious traditions — evangelical Protestant churches, mainline Protestant churches and historically black Protestant churches."

The researchers said the increase in Latin American members projects not only a future trend for the makeup of American Catholicism, but for the United States as a whole.

According to the survey, Latinos already account for roughly one in three adult Catholics overall and may account for an even larger share of U.S. Catholics in the future. It said Latinos represent roughly one in eight U.S. Catholics age 70 and older and account for nearly half of all Catholics ages 18-29.

In the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, Latinos make up more than half the Catholic population.



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# Offering help and hope

CRS program for doctors in Congo helps ease plight of female victims, children

BY BRONWEN DAHCS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — A church-run training program for rural doctors in the Democratic Republic of Congo has helped ease the plight of women in the war-torn eastern region where sexual violence is common, an aid worker said.

Because of the program, run by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, doctors are able to help the seriously wounded, mostly rape victims, at village hospitals, said Lane Hartill, regional information officer for CRS in West Africa.

Otherwise, doctors would have to tell patients to walk long distances to bigger centers "on almost impassable roads in atrocious condition," he told Catholic News Service in a mid-February telephone interview from Dakar, Senegal.

Dr. Freddy Mubuto, 32, whom Hartill got to know on a recent visit to Congo from Dakar, where he is based, worked alone for two years at Nyamibungu hospital in South Kivu province before another doctor joined him this year.

Mubuto found it heartbreaking to refer his patients to Panzi hospital in Bukavu, eastern Congo's top medical

facility, knowing that most of them would have to walk the 135 miles or be carried through the mud on "what resembles a goat track more than a road," Hartill said.

"There isn't much transport because the roads are so bad," he said.

After a training course at Panzi hospital provided to rural doctors in South Kivu last year by CRS, Mubuto is now able to perform simple operations to repair damage to women who have been raped, Hartill said.

Mubuto's Nyamibungu hospital serves a population of more than 100,000 people. Nyamibungu is close to a jungle that serves as a hiding place for Rwandan Hutu rebels who fled rather than face prosecution at home for their involvement in the 1994 genocide against Tutsis, Hartill told CNS.

These men are notorious for their violence, and villagers told him that they "come into the village at night and rape women and steal crops."

Warring rebels and militias signed a cease-fire in late January in eastern Congo, where conflict has raged for years despite the formal end of the country's 1998-2003 war.

Some 800,000 people were forced to flee their homes in the past year



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID LEWIS, REUTERS

Sylvie Mulongo, a severely malnourished Congolese girl, lies in a clinic run in the remote town of Dubie in the Democratic Republic of Congo in this March 18, 2006 photo.

and sexual violence in the region has escalated, reported the British news agency Reuters.

Mubuto and other eastern Congolese doctors "see the results of brutal rapes where women are violated with guns and sticks," Hartill said.

The surgery Mubuto and other rural doctors are now able to perform is "life-changing for these women, many of whom are left incontinent after the attack," Hartill said.

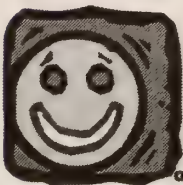
Rape victims are generally "cast aside and ignored in their villages," he said.

And malnourished children now line up to see Mubuto, Hartill said.

"That didn't happen before the war — everything grows in Congo; it's a greenhouse," he said.

"But now with militias stealing crops and villagers displaced because of the fighting, Mubuto sees more and more malnourished children," he said.

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# Ghanaian proves how CRS is making a difference

CRS, from page 1

Awiaipo's U.S. tour to thank Catholic communities for support and to raise awareness about hunger, relief and development overseas.

Awiaipo's Charlotte presentation was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace. He spoke of his experiences fighting poverty and hunger in Ghana through CRS, and also shared how he overcame his personal struggle against poverty through education.

He was born in northern Ghana around 1969, though he's not exactly sure when.

"I actually do not know how old I am. I do not know when my real birthday is," he said.

But he knows that his parents died when he was young, age 9 or so.

He does not know what disease took his parents, but he remembers them in their sickbeds. He had three brothers — two died and the eldest went missing.

He remembers appealing to the ancestors through animal sacrifices, and then came the day he felt he was on his own in the world.

As an orphan in the village of Wiaga,

"For me, CRS was a savior. I want the Catholic community in America to know about the work CRS is doing."

— Thomas Awiaipo

young Thomas survived by begging and becoming a child laborer. He would move from farm to farm, barefoot or wearing cardboard shoes, offering to work for food. He has never forgotten the fear that went with going to bed hungry.

He had never even considered going to school until he heard that students got lunch. He saw troops of happy children headed to school and made the decision to join them.

CRS provided the food that drew Awiaipo.

His village received help from CRS' Operation Rice Bowl. During Lent, Operation Rice Bowl participants pledge to pray, fast in solidarity with those around the world who suffer from hunger, learn about the global community



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELY

Thomas Awiaipo receives a copy of "Voices and Places of the People of God — The Diocese of Charlotte," the diocese's 35th anniversary coffee table book, from Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, during a visit to the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Feb. 14.

and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

He sat through classes mostly for the meal of wheat and sorghum cereal and milk powder.

"I had come for the food, and I got the food, but I began to realize that I was enjoying the classes as much as the food," he said. Laughing, he added, "CRS used the food to trick me into getting an education."

Young Awiaipo was a smart child, and the Missionaries of Africa (once known as the White Fathers) who ran the school took notice. One priest gave him shoes and extra food.

"They stepped in and made life better for me," he said.

As he entered adolescence, he accepted the missionaries' offer to study

Christianity, and they asked him to take an exam that qualified him to attend a Catholic high school.

Awiaipo said he went from being hungry for food to being hungry for education. After high school, he went to junior college on scholarships. Then he went back to teach at his alma mater.

He went to the seminary for a number of years and then came to the United States to complete a master's degree in public administration.

Today he is married and is the father of three children.

He returned to Ghana to do, as he said, "as others did for him" — to bring help to those who hunger for both food and learning.

Now, it is part of his job to make sure schools in Ghana get food for lunches and snacks. He also trains community leaders throughout Ghana.

He knows many others from his village who went to school — because of the promise of a meal — and have since succeeded in life.

"For me, CRS was a savior. They built a school, put food in that school, and I went to that school," said Awiaipo.

"I want the Catholic community in America to know about the work CRS is doing," he said.

While in Charlotte, Awiaipo met with Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. To Msgr. West, Awiaipo expressed his sincere thanks to the people of the diocese for their support of CRS's work.

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray, Joseph Purello and Catholic News Service.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Catholic Relief Services, visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

## Lenten Morning of Reflection



The focus will be preparation for Holy Week with talks led by:

Fr. David Brown, O.S.B.  
And S. Jane Russell, O.S.F.

Saturday, March 8, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

Mezzanine, Student Commons  
Belmont Abbey College  
(Exit 26 on I-85, just west of Charlotte)

Mass will follow in the Basilica at 11:00 a.m.  
with Mid-Day Prayer at 11:45 a.m.

There is no charge, but reservations are requested.  
Please call 704-825-6661 to register.



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two guides to greater communion with God and a resource on prayer

REVIEWED BY SISTER MONA CASTELAZO, CSJ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Both "Prayer" by Servite Sister Joyce Rupp and "Prayer That Relieves Stress and Worry" by Eddie Ensley offer suggestions for personal communion with God.

"The Tradition of Catholic Prayer" by the monks of St. Meinrad explains the historical roots of traditional theologies and practices in the church.

Sister Rupp's book is a concise summary of her experience and teachings on prayer. Each chapter begins with an original poem and ends with reflection questions and a prayer.

Well-known authors, including Richard Rohr, Paula D'Arcy, Sandra Schneiders, Elizabeth Johnson, Dorothy Soelle, Margaret Silf, Thomas Merton and others, are quoted.

The author sees prayer as a process of transformation leading to personal wholeness, through experiencing both positive and negative feelings. Prayer styles change with growth and, depending on the circumstances, can even include "emergency prayers," such as the single word "Help!"

Sister Rupp herself found that she had to "slowly let go of the old message of having to earn God's love by matching up to some divine expectation."

She suggests that the goal is not to "pray right" but to become less egocentric and controlling and more aware and compassionate.

Although many different prayer forms are covered, Sister Rupp concludes that there is no "best way to pray" applicable to everyone. We must find and trust the type of prayer best suited for each of us and allow others to do the same.

Each chapter of "Prayer That Relieves Stress and Worry" contains scriptural passages, examples from Ensley's own life and those to whom he has ministered, prayers written by the author and questions for journaling.

"Worry is a disease of the imagination," writes Ensley.

The antidote he offers is mainly a type of prayer that utilizes the mind, such as imagining warm feelings and conversations with Jesus and addressing journal questions such as "If God wrote a letter to you about your worries and stresses, what do you think he would say?"

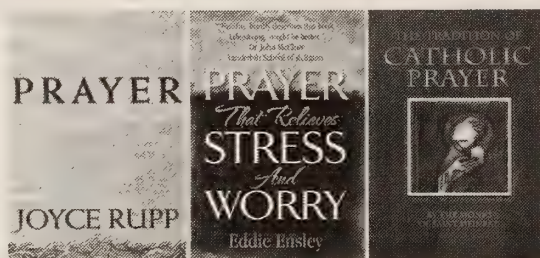
Ensley's book may be helpful for some, but its focus on prayer is limited

to its use as a pain-reliever for stress and worry. It is specifically written for Christians and emphasizes imaging prayer in which we picture Jesus as a warm, consoling, safe presence who relieves us of our burdens by carrying them himself.

The author's pragmatic approach does not present prayer as an ongoing transformative process, but mainly as an "anchor for a restless soul" and a refuge from suffering.

"The Tradition of Catholic Prayer" offers a comprehensive history which describes traditional prayer practices in the church, their origins and their development.

The book is written by 16 monks of St. Meinrad, each taking a chapter



and providing a helpful bibliography for further reading at the end.

The first section traces prayer traditions from the Old Testament to the present day.

From prayers of the early saints, martyrs and monastics, the authors cover such influential figures as Evagrius, Cassian, John Climacus, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Bonaventure, the Spanish mystics, Newman, Rahner, von Balthasar, St. Therese, Dorothy Day and many more.

The central section focuses on liturgical prayer, its historical development and specific detailed forms of ritual. The liturgical year, the Liturgy of the Hours, and the Eucharist are thoroughly explained.

The last section describes certain forms of prayers such as "lectio divina," prayers to Mary and the saints, visual aids to prayer and conversational prayer.

This work is neither a how-to book nor one to be used for inspirational reading. Although it presents no startling insights, it will be valuable as a factual resource text, providing a detailed history and description of traditional Catholic prayer practices and theological reflection.

Sister Castelazo, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, has taught English for many years in Los Angeles.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 9, 2008

March 9, Fifth Sunday  
of Lent

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 37:12-14  
Psalm 130:1-8
- 2) Romans 8:8-11  
Gospel: John 11:1-45

## Redemption is worth waiting for

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Lent is a time of waiting and hoping and of sacrifice, knowing that hope will not disappoint, that Easter will come as a sign of life eternal.

I recently learned of a friend's trial with her daughter during the daughter's senior year of high school, of the distancing and pain the daughter put her mother through. Now a few years further on, their relationship is back on track again.

I think frequently these days of a taxi driver I rode with in Washington, a native of Kenya. When I asked if he had a tribal identity, Isaiah told me, "Everyone in Kenya is a member of a tribe."

I wonder which one he belonged to and how his relatives are faring. If they hold on to the end through the current violence, will there be an Easter day for Kenya?

And what of the waiting Europe had to endure from 1938 to 1945? More than a long Lent, more like enduring hell, how did they sustain hope?

Yet the message of Scripture, clear this weekend, is that holding out with hope, praying to the Lord for his blessing does yield fruit. Kids grow up; tribal groups reconcile; wars end; we come out on the other sides of trials, both personal and societal.

God offers us hope in Psalm 130 when the psalmist says, "More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption."

And that redemption was promised as far back as Ezekiel's time when the Lord promised in Ezekiel 37:13, "Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!"

Jesus makes it graphically clear that this is not merely poetic language or a figure of speech when he raises Lazarus from the dead in the reading from John for this weekend: "He cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out," wrapped in his grave clothes.

Easter is coming not just in a few weeks but in all the situations of our lives and our worlds, and it is coming in the redemption of each of us and of our entire world. Wait and see.

### Questions:

What areas of your life are awaiting a redemption that only time and God can yield? How can you let go of your fears and actively wait for God's redemption?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I will put my spirit in you that you may live" (Ezekiel 37:14a).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2-8

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**, 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday (St. Katharine Drexel)**, Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Perpetua and St. Felicity)**, Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (St. John of God)**, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9-15

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent)**, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. Joseph)**, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24.

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## Polish priest: Young priests plagiarize homilies from Internet

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WARSAW, Poland — A prominent Polish priest said young priests are using the Internet to plagiarize homilies for Masses.

"If a priest takes another person's text and presents it as his own from the pulpit, without pointing out where he got it from, this is unethical and against the law protecting authorship," said Father Wieslaw Przyczyna, co-author of the book "To Pinch or Not to Pinch."

"Unfortunately, the practice has become common here," he said.

Father Przyczyna, chairman of the Polish Homiletics Group, told Catholic News Service Feb. 25 that he had been accused of "harassing priests and exposing their weaknesses" by drawing attention to the plagiarism problem.

However, he added that more and more Polish Catholics were complaining about priests who read their Sunday homilies, while some Poles had traced the texts on the Internet and even come to Mass with their own copies.

"People realize priests are often not speaking for themselves, but merely reading someone else's sermon," said Father Przyczyna, who also heads the religious communication department at Krakow's Papal Theology Academy.

"Owners of Internet sermon Web sites have noticed increased use on Saturday nights, suggesting some priests are trying to rescue themselves at the

last moment by finding a text to read out at the next day's Mass," said Father Przyczyna.

"This separates the priest from his congregation and poses a serious communication problem," he said.

Father Przyczyna said plagiarism mainly affected younger Catholic clergy familiar with the Internet.

However, he added that needs and expectations from Sunday homilies were also changing among Polish lay Catholics.

"People don't want to hear patriotic, romantic speeches today — they get enough politics from the media and come to church for a break," he said. "But there's also been a certain jauntiness and superficiality and a tendency for preachers to choose easy options."

"The homilies are often unreal and don't deal with issues affecting the lives of the real congregations standing before the pulpit," he said. "Priests should speak to people as they really are, not as virtual people."

The book, co-authored by Tomasz Naganowski, a Polish press law expert, said homily texts were covered by the same regulations as other intellectual property. It said priests who publicly used texts without permission and acknowledgment could face prosecution and up to three years in jail.

The book said Polish seminarians should be instructed on the legal situation as part of their training.

## A play like nun other

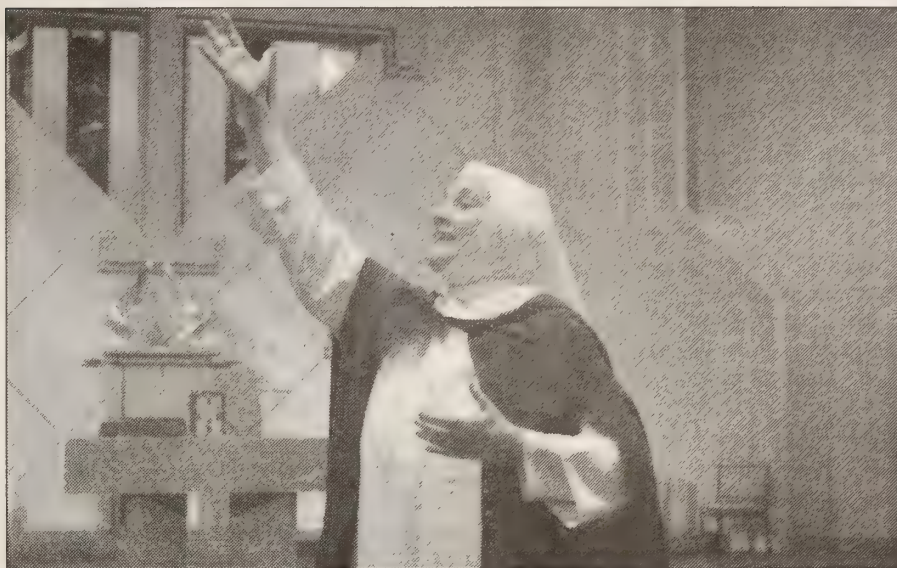


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dominican Sister Nancy Murray performs "A Saint for Our Times," a dramatization of the life of St. Catherine of Siena, at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Feb. 23.

### Sister Nancy Murray performs one-woman show in Charlotte

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The sister of nationally-known comedian Bill Murray recently brought her one-woman show to Charlotte.

Dominican Sister Nancy Murray performed "A Saint for Our Times," a dramatization of the life of St. Catherine of Siena, at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Feb. 23.

The performance benefited Sacred Heart Communications, an organization providing Catholic radio programming in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Dressed in an old-fashioned Dominican habit, Sister Murray as St. Catherine speaks out against injustice in the church and world, a theme that resonates with modern-day audiences.

The saint also taught that love of God means love of one's neighbor. The real St. Catherine, a nurse and mystic, advised popes and princes on the issues of the day. She proved to be one of the sharpest theological minds in the 1400s, even though she lacked formal education.

The Italian-born visionary's letters are considered among the most brilliant writings in the church. She died at age 33.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI named St. Catherine a doctor of the church — a title conferred on eminent ecclesiastical writers because of their learning and the holiness of their lives.

Grace Narus, a member of Sacred Heart Communications' promotions and marketing committee, conceived the idea to bring Sister Murray's play to Charlotte after reading an article about her in The Catholic News & Herald.

Sister Murray joined the Dominicans, an order of preachers and teachers, in 1966. Over the past five years, her dramatic recreation of the saint's life has evolved into a full-time ministry.

To date, Sister Murray has performed the play about 340 times, all over the world. Her brother, Bill, has seen the play twice.

*Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.*

#### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Sacred Heart Communications, visit [www.sacredheartcommunications.org](http://www.sacredheartcommunications.org), or listen live 12-3 p.m. Sundays on AM 1220 WDYT.

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Rev. Robert A. Gibson	1987
Rev. Francis Gorham	1981
Rev. John Huston	1976
Rev. Justin J. Pechulis	1983

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# One Moore byline

*New writer joins staff of The Catholic News & Herald*

CHARLOTTE — A new byline will soon be gracing the pages of your diocesan newspaper.

Kathleen "Katie" Moore has been hired as the new staff writer of The Catholic News & Herald.

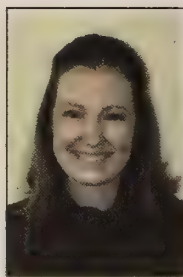
Moore is a product of Catholic education in the Diocese of Charlotte — she attended St. Ann School and Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

She graduated from Charlotte Catholic High School before earning her bachelor's degree in communication studies from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

At UNC-Charlotte, Moore volunteered with Catholic campus ministry and managed its newsletter. She also served as vice president of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and was a member of Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society of the National Communications Association.

Prior to joining The Catholic News & Herald, Moore wrote for the national desk of NBC news, as well as for Charlotte Parent magazine and Today's Charlotte Woman magazine.

"Finding a job that allows me to combine my passion for writing with my love of the Catholic faith is a dream come true," said Moore, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.



Katie Moore

"Working in the diocese where I grew up makes this job even more meaningful because I get to enjoy the support of family and friends," she said.

At The Catholic News & Herald, Moore's assignments will include reporting on diocesan events and maintaining the Diocesan Planner, a calendar of parish- and ministry-based events within the diocese.

"I look forward to getting to know the people of the Diocese of Charlotte and I can't wait to have the privilege of telling their stories," said Moore.

## HAVE A STORY?

Have a story for Katie Moore? Contact her at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).

## A LOOK BACK

# Remembering Bishop Michael J. Begley

*Feb. 6 marked the six-year anniversary of the death of Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.*

*In honor of Bishop Begley and his legacy, below are some facts about the diocese's first bishop.*

— He became a Third Order Dominican in 1949.

— Though born in Massachusetts, he was encouraged to minister as a priest in North Carolina by Bishop William Hafey, who was the first Bishop of Raleigh and happened to be a distant relative.

— As chairman of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, he was the leader of the 26 bishops who issued the joint pastoral letter "This Land is Home to Me" in 1975.

— He had two aunts who were consecrated religious. Both were members of the Sisters of Providence.

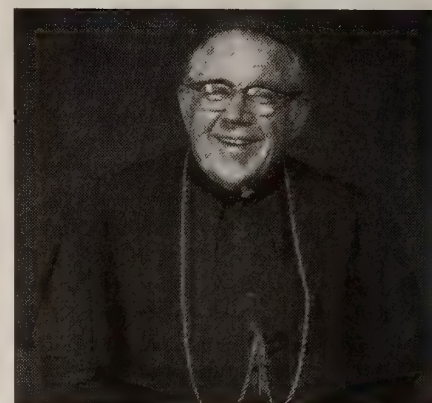
— His second cousin, Thomas Lyons, became auxiliary bishop of Washington, D.C.

— When he was serving as first pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, he baptized the future Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

— In addition to earning a master's degree in social work from UNC-Chapel Hill, he was awarded honorary degrees (doctorate of letters) from Belmont Abbey College and his alma mater, Mt. St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md.

## In his words

"Mary sees the sufferings, the tortures which Christ is enduring. She



FILE PHOTO

Pictured is the late Bishop Michael J. Begley, first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

actually desires to relieve him of these torments and to pile them upon her own slight shoulders.

"Indeed in spirit Mary did carry the cross of Jesus, for every step of the way to the top of Mount Calvary ....

"My friends, here is a model after which we may fashion our souls. Here is the Mother of God, showing us the way to store up our strength to carry the cross of Jesus on our way of life.

"We, too, can perform our daily duties for the love of Christ, and even as Mary received strength to perform that great heroic act of love at the gate of Jerusalem, so will we receive strength necessary to perform acts, however great they may be."

— from Bishop Begley's "Mary meets Jesus" homily



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## IN OUR SCHOOLS



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders Hannah Goulding, Shannon-Steward, Anna Ross, Nicholas Clinch, Serena Conforti, Conor Wilson, Jane Ashley Raborn and Jude Ampolini of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem are pictured at the model U.N. competition at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Jan. 16.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders Stanhope Johnson, Andrew Scheppegegrell, Catherine Fortune, Lauren Watson, Hailey Diaz and Katrina Wronecki of St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured at the model U.N. competition at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Jan. 16.



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## Students participate in mock United Nations event

KERNERSVILLE — You're never too young to learn to work together to solve problems.

Middle school students from Triad-area Catholic schools took part in a model United Nations competition at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville Jan. 16.

Participating schools were Our Lady of Grace and St. Pius X in Greensboro, Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point, and Our Lady of Mercy and St. Leo the Great in Winston-Salem.

Model U.N. is a simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about civics, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy.

In the recent competition, the Catholic students researched countries and took on roles of their foreign diplomats to participate in a simulated session of an intergovernmental organization.

The students investigated and debated current international issues and developed solutions to world problems.

The teams and their participants were recognized with various distinctions during an awards ceremony.

Tony Barker, a Bishop McGuinness student and leader of its model U.N. club, organized the competition with assistance from faculty, parents and teacher volunteers.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish-, school- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A look at the new Eve

### A Marian reflection anticipating Pope Benedict XVI's visit to America

Within a month of Easter, Pope Benedict XVI will make his first papal visit to the United States.

In anticipation of his visit, it is worth remembering how important his teaching about Mary, the mother of God, has been to the intellectual development of the church even before his elevation to the papacy.

For one thing, he reminds us that the terminology "mother of God" is deliberate, and, contrary to some erroneous instruction outside the church, Mary is more than the mother of Jesus, the man.

The proper terminology underscores the significance of the Incarnation, for Mary is the new Eve, the mother of life as God had always intended humanity to be.

Much of the modern storyline about Mary involves dispute over her proper place. This Protestant/Catholic divide

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



Christians that the Catholic understanding of that Gospel is this: As close as Mary was to Jesus, she was not God.

And if one born without sin is still dependent upon her creator, there is no question that we are even more so. Moreover, theological study should not understate the power of Mary to bring people to the faith.

Those of us who are privileged to live in communities where there is a large Hispanic presence know how moving the story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe is. Juan was on his way to Mass when Mary appeared to him outside Mexico City, asking that he build a church. His vision was understandably received skeptically by the local bishop until the humble worker's cloak opened.

The roses he had gathered for Mary left her miraculous image, an image that can still be seen

today in the basilica standing at that spot. The Holy Father has much more to say about the role of Mary, and some well-meaning people urge that her significance now be recognized with the title of "co-redemptrix."

This is going to the opposite extreme from the Protestant objection, however. Understanding redemption to be the removal of sinful limitation as Christ enters into us and we into him, the use of a redemptive appellation for our mother would only obscure.

It would be, as Pope Benedict remarks, "a correct intention expressed in the wrong way." Mary is born without sin because God anticipated the need to prepare for Christ's entry into humanity. As wonderful as Mary is, neither she nor any of us without faith in Christ could perform that task.

Yes, Pope Benedict has thought deeply about Mary, and I believe she would affirm his simple and direct message — practice faith, hope and love. It is out of true love that we get beyond ourselves.

But love is only inspired by faith. And, of course, it is faith that gives us hope.

The Holy Father's visit gives us much to look forward to indeed.

## Connections hurt, connections heal

*Faith can help prepare hearts for such connections*

### Guest Column

TOM SHERIDAN  
GUEST COLUMNIST

The call was chilling. It came from our son who graduated from Northern Illinois University a decade ago.

He'd heard the news driving home from work in Chicago. A brilliant but broken young man stepped onto a stage in a campus lecture hall and began shooting. A score of people were hit by shotgun and handgun. Tragically, five died. Then, just as tragically, he killed himself.

Our son seemed shaken by the news about his school, his campus. He knew the hall; he'd had classes there.

In a way, the shootings connected his past and present.

We too knew the school, had a connection. We watched with pride as he became a freshly minted business school graduate in a room not unlike the one that became a slaughterhouse.

Tragedy always seems worse when there's a connection.

I've been in the news biz a long time. I knew how the media — TV, radio, the papers, even the Internet — would react. There would be a rush of information and it would dominate the news cycle.

After all, the cliché is true: If it bleeds, it leads.

The connections we had to the campus, however tenuous, pushed me in a different direction. It is human nature after all to pay attention to those things which touch us closely.

A tragedy across the world may elicit expressions of sorrow and even donations. But the emotional tie truly develops when there is a personal connection.

Tragedy always seems worse when there's a connection.

Hurricane Katrina shattered lives and sundered communities. But when parishes hundreds of miles away began rebuilding homes, a deeper connection was made. And Katrina became more than just someone else's problem.

When refugees showed up homeless and penniless in towns and cities hundreds of miles away, often assisted by agencies like Catholic Charities, the connection was strengthened.

I was working for the Archdiocese of Chicago when Katrina refugees began drifting in. Their presence and stories gave a human dimension to the plight of

hundreds of thousands. Parishioners saw them, spoke with them, poured out their hearts and opened their purses.

Tragedy always seems worse when there's a connection.

In another generation, Vietnamese families fleeing war were "adopted" by U.S. families and parishes, again many through Catholic Charities. The faces of war that had only appeared in flickering TV images became real.

Today more than ever society is linked by media. We are inundated by every event — a missing child in Arizona, a horrific accident in Florida, a murder in New York.

A generation or two ago these incidents, no matter how sad or violent, may never have made it into our homes and consciousness.

How much we and our world have changed! We are more connected though personal links that make the connection emotional rather than just vicarious.

When our son called about the shootings on his former campus, we too became a little more connected. We suffered a little more with the victims, shared sadness a little more with their parents, wondered a little more about the demons that finally overwhelmed the killer. And we appreciated a little more the anguish the shooter's estranged father suffered.

Tragedy always seems worse when there's a connection.

Faith can help prepare our hearts for such connections. Our parish communities where we have the opportunity to share stories of life and faith give us — if we let them — a taste of the connections we can have with the larger world around us. Call it the globalization of conscience.



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

Pictured is an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Transfiguration Church in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y., Feb. 3. Pope Benedict XVI will visit New York in April and find it is still a city of immigrants.

should not be passed over lightly.

Relying on limited Marian reference in the Bible (in Matthew, for example, Mary is hardly mentioned), non-Catholics are greatly troubled by Catholic attention given to Mary.

They characterize it as encroaching upon reverence due Christ himself. This may be seen by Catholics as an odd argument that unnecessarily assumes that Christ would begrudge his mother respect. But how should we respond to this concern from our Protestant brothers and sisters?

One answer given by Pope Benedict is the Gospel story at Cana, where Christ directly responds to his mother's intercession. This is instructive of Mary's influence and naturally draws us to rely upon her in distressful moments to help bring her Son closer to our side.

Of course, there is a bit of surliness in Christ's voice in his initial answer to his mother: "Woman, how does your concern affect me?"

That vocal tone, while perhaps so familiar to mothers worldwide, is perplexing coming from the Son of God, and as the pope observes, presents "opportunities for reflection and comment." Nevertheless, it reveals in ways that should be reassuring to other



CNS PHOTO BY KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI, REUTERS

Crosses bearing the names of the victims of a campus shooting are seen in the snow on a hill overlooking Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., Feb. 15.



# A solution to ego terrorism is pre-overdue

*Behavior, beliefs must be changed in order to change culture*

Ever since childhood one is conditioned to recognize that a librarian is not one to be ignored.

Thus an e-mail recently received from the public library demanded instant attention.

It also caught the eye with its title: "Pre-overdue Notice." The notice informed the library patron that a book checked out is due to be returned within a matter of days.

At one time, this might have been called a courtesy notice or even a warning notice, certainly too harsh a tone in our more mellow times.

When does a book evolve from being checked out to being pre-overdue?

Is "pre-overdue notice" similar to the airline term "pre-boarding," which makes one wonder when that process begins — at the time of making the reservation or leaving home for the airport?

Having fun with words, even renaming things can be amusing in some cases, but it can be dangerously deceptive too.

Consider the term "road rage" now settled too comfortably upon the communal consciousness.

One incident occurred on an interstate highway in a metropolitan area as two drivers pulled to the shoulder of the road to settle a dispute.

One driver was severely beaten by the other in the presence of his two children.

News accounts report incidents of "road rage" much as they might relate news of a hurricane, tornado or flood — as though it were an uncontrollable or unavoidable event.

One driver does not properly yield to another driver when entering the traffic stream or a driver fails to properly signal a lane change, infuriating the driver behind him.

The power to confer a name upon something can make it acceptable. The term "road rage" is inappropriate conduct that should be regarded as violence and assault.

Road rage is a criminal matter.

A society is made less than fully civilized not only by the major things, such as war and crime, but also by the "me first" attitude: I am the one to be served, and if I am not, I'll bang my car into yours.

Or worse, assault you.

Today there is a tendency to appoint task forces and commission studies, and to seek grants to solve problems.

But who doesn't already know it is wrong to assault someone on the highway by vehicle or by fist?

Laws cannot change attitude, only behavior. A law can never change the

**Extra!  
Extra!**

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



attitude of one who feels a particular racial group is inferior.

It can, however, directly change the behavior of one who acts out that attitude by lynching or by arson.

Laws cannot change the attitude of those who bridle at criticism of their driving practices.

They can, however, change the behavior of those who would fire a weapon into the passenger compartment of an offending vehicle.

Law and culture are inextricably linked, and Americans have the right to expect the law to uphold key aspects of the moral structure of their culture.

If culture is to shape law, what is there to instruct culture?

The responsibility to change the culture belongs properly to those who believe in transcendent values.

Christians can't wait for culture to change. We must live out the Gospel in our own lives.

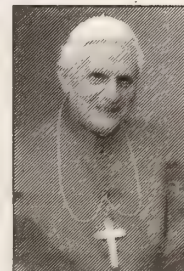
The root cause of many problems in society is selfishness — one more example of rampant individualism infecting the common good.

Let's call it "ego terrorism." And a solution is long pre-overdue.

## Pope discusses St. Augustine's conversion, influence on his life

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling St. Augustine "one of the greatest converts in Christian history," Pope Benedict XVI said the writings of the North African bishop have had a huge influence on his life as a priest and theologian.

At his Feb. 27 general audience, the pope spoke of his "personal devotion and recognition before a figure to whom I feel very closely tied because of the part he played in my life as a theologian, priest and pastor."

In addition, the pope said both his 2006 encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), and his 2007 encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), were influenced heavily by the work of St. Augustine.

Concluding a series of audience talks about the doctor of the church who lived from 354 to 430, Pope Benedict focused on what he said were the three stages in St. Augustine's conversion.

*Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we conclude our presentation of St. Augustine with a discussion of the process of his interior conversion. In reading his Confessions, we see that his conversion was a life-long journey marked by a passionate search for truth.

Despite living an errant life as a young man, Augustine had learned from his mother a love for the name of Christ. Platonic philosophy led him to recognize the existence of Logos, or creative reason in the universe, which he later came to understand more fully by reading St. Paul and finding faith in Christ.

He completed this fundamental phase in his search for truth when he was baptized in Milan by St. Ambrose.

The second stage of his conversion saw Augustine return to Africa and found a small monastery with a group of friends dedicated to contemplation and study.

Three years later, he was ordained a priest and turned to the life of active ministry, placing the fruits of his study at the service of others through preaching and dialogue.

The last stage was a conversion of such profound humility that he would daily ask God for pardon. He also demonstrated this humility in his intellectual endeavors, submitting all his works to a thorough critique.

Augustine has had a profound effect on my own life and ministry. My hope is that we can all learn from this great and humble convert who saw with such clarity that Christ is truth and love!

## College faculty whiners should quit whining

In response to "Controversial coverage" (Feb. 22) — As a student at Belmont Abbey College, I received an e-mail about how the health coverage for employees will not cover abortions and contraceptives.

To the instructors and faculty who have filed a lawsuit against the college I ask them: What is the big deal? If you do not want a baby, don't have sex.

And the college faculty should be thankful they have insurance, because a lot of companies do not carry insurance on their employees.

So instead of trying to force the college to give you something you really shouldn't need, be thankful that you have something many people do not have.

— Eric Osborne  
Belmont

## Trust in God, not government

Tony Magliano's Feb. 22 column ("Fasting for justice") is right out of the Communists hand book.

His comments — "As Catholic citizens we need to urge local, state and

### Letters to the Editor

national public officials to permanently fast from indifference toward the poor and greatly increase funds for poverty reduction" — is so anti-Christian that I have a hard time keeping my cool.

It is the church that needs to fast and pray about where the money given from the tithing should be best used. It is we — the members of the Body of Christ — who need to increase our tithing and trust the church to do the work of Christ.

It is not the responsibility of the government to do the work of Christ. Jesus did not say, "On this rock I will build my government."

The more we, as the church, abdicate our responsibilities, the less we can expect God to bless us. The church, we are told, is the "storehouse" — not the government.

The huge question for the church is — Who do we trust more? The Lord God, or the government?

— Joe Massi  
Waxhaw

### More like socialist justice

I see that while still attacking the United States, Mr. Magliano is now a physiologist and nutritionist ("Fasting for justice," Feb. 22). And he still is using that phony argument about the U.S. government's per capita spending on developing countries.

I guess that is the way a socialist like he is thinks.

— Michael McNamara  
Edneyville

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.





## AN INVITATION TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual  
Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!  
Sunday, March 9      2 pm–6:15 pm

## It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim

COLOSSIANS 1: 28

*Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to  
the Diocesan Youth Lenten Pilgrimage at  
Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at exit 26).*



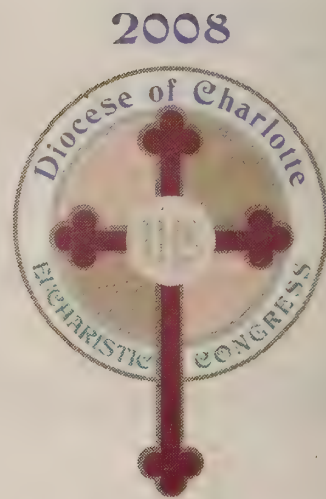
Bishop Peter Jugis



Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder



**It Is Christ  
Whom We Proclaim**

Colossians 1: 28

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop, Diocese of Charlotte;  
Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; and Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

**Your day also will include:**

- Campus tours
- Praise and worship music
- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Make pledge to the Holy Spirit
- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Information at [www.GoEucharist.com](http://www.GoEucharist.com)





# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

What's needed to end  
poverty, racism; the line  
between trust, neglect

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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 18

## Planning ahead

Parents of six add  
school endowment  
to their will

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — As the parents of six children between the ages of 5 and 15, Reynolds and Catherine Lassiter know the importance of taking a proactive approach when it comes to planning for the future.

The couple, parishioners of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, is already making plans to include the endowment fund for St. Leo the Great School in their estate.

With five children currently attending St. Leo the Great School and one at Bishop McGuinness High School in

See ENDOWMENT, page 4

## Using the right rite

Vatican says baptisms  
using wrong words are  
not valid, must  
be redone

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A baptism administered "in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier" is not a baptism at all, said the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The congregation's statement was published Feb. 29 as a brief response to questions

See BAPTISM, page 8

## Hearts 'given over to the Lord'



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis addresses candidates for the permanent diaconate during the rite of candidacy at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 1.

## Deacons recommit to ministry at Mass

BISHOP RECEIVES 9 IN  
RITE OF CANDIDACY

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Permanent deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered to commit once again to their diaconate service in the church.

Bishop Jugis celebrated the deacons' annual recommitment Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 1.

During the ceremony, the deacons' wives also promised to support their husbands in their vocations to the church.

"One of the most challenging things for all deacons to do is to maintain that delicate balance between wife and family, the world of work and the diaconate,"

See DEACONS, page 5

## Honoring 'Mr. Gabe'

School celebrates custodian of 35 years

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Students, teachers, parents and friends gathered at St. Ann School Feb. 28 to pay tribute to a man they fondly refer to as "Mr. Gabe."

The celebration recognized Gabriel Tindal for 35 years of service as the school's maintenance engineer.

Tindal ranks high among the memories students cherish from their time at St. Ann

School, according to Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

"He has been a positive member of the St. Ann School community for 35 years, as shared by parents, staff members and the children who passed through the doors," she said.

For the celebration, students donned Charlotte

See GABE, page 12

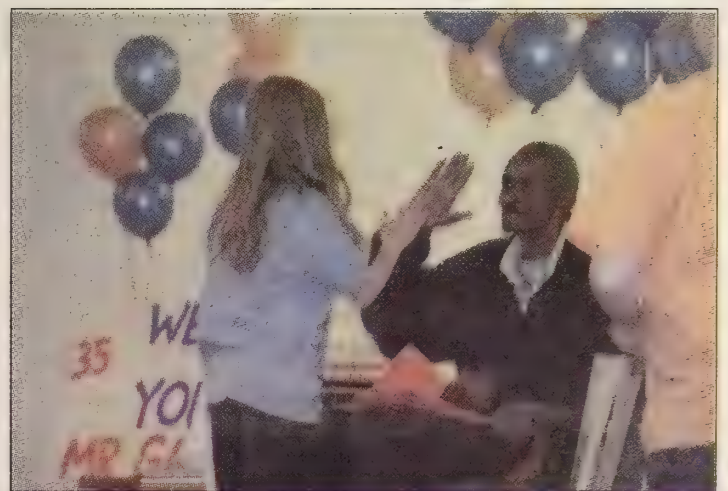


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A student "high-fives" Gabriel Tindal during a celebration honoring his 35 years of service to St. Ann School in Charlotte Feb. 28.

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Knights, womens' groups help  
others in communities

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## Culture Watch

Faith inside the Oval Office;  
bodies on display a concern

| PAGES 10-11

## Conflict in Colombia

Archbishop: Troops at  
border boost tensions

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## THE HEALING TOUCH



CNS PHOTO BY SUE SCHULZETENBERG, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

Gayle Johnson massages the hand of a client at Sister Rosalind Gefre Schools and Clinics of Massage in Sauk Rapids, Minn., in 2007. Clients, upon arriving at the clinic, are given the option of checking "yes" for prayer on their health history forms so it can be part of their visit.

## For Minnesota nun, the message is the massage

SAUK RAPIDS, Minn. (CNS) — Jennie Lewis calmly walked up to her next client, who lay covered in white sheets upon a raised table. Lewis asked the client if it was OK to pray with her. The client consented and the massage therapist began her prayer.

"Lord Jesus, I thank you for sending her in today. Father, I ask that you bless her with this massage," said Lewis.

"I ask you to help her to relax. Let your spirit come on to bring her peace. May she feel refreshed and rejuvenated. In the name of Jesus. Amen," she said.

Lewis is a massage therapist at the Sister Rosalind Gefre Schools and Clinics of Massage in Sauk Rapids. Clients upon arriving at the clinic are given the option of checking "yes" on their health history forms to request prayer.

For Sister Gefre, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet who founded the school, massage and following Jesus' example go hand in hand — literally.

"When Jesus healed people, he touched them," she said.

Since beginning her ministry of massage 34 years ago at the YMCA in Fargo, N.D., Sister Gefre has incorporated prayer into healing.

"Prayer heals," she said.

She said she has seen many people become healed of their illnesses through massage, and she includes herself. She had chronic chest pain and received a

massage; that's when she was introduced to the healing power of massage.

Her ministry continued to expand. There are now five Sister Rosalind Gefre Schools in Minnesota and North Dakota.

"I never intended to start any schools," she said. "I believe this ministry was not started by me — God was behind it."

Guiding the schools is a common mission: "To promote the healing of the body, mind and spirit through touch, following Jesus' example."

Throughout her work as a massage therapist, Sister Gefre has made it a practice to pray with the clients, as requested. On some days, seven or eight clients request prayer, and on other days no one does.

She also finds it notable that many people to whom she gave massages have remarked about the power of prayer.

"I hear that a lot — 'You prayed with me and I feel better,'" she said.

Prayer is incorporated into every class at her schools, and the students take 12 hours of a spirituality class in which they learn to pray aloud and reflect on how they have changed.

Sister Gefre said that most of the students are Christian, and their beliefs tend to become incorporated into their work.

"Clients are appreciative of the prayer," she said. "That someone takes the time to pray for them touches them."

## Archbishop says it will be possible to display Padre Pio's body

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, Italy (CNS) — Almost 40 years after his death, the body of St. Padre Pio shows uneven signs of decay, but can be treated in a way that will make it possible to place the body on display for the veneration of the faithful, the local archbishop said.

Archbishop Domenico D'Ambrosio, papal delegate for the saint's shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo, presided over the exhumation of the body March 2.

The archbishop said the exhumation and subsequent procedures would guarantee the "prolonged preservation of the body of our saint to allow generations to come the possibility of venerating and safeguarding his relics."

The archbishop said the body of the saint, who died Sept. 26, 1968, was in "fair condition," and the saint's hands were well preserved and "looked like they had just had a manicure."

The archbishop also said the saint's feet were clearly visible; the Capuchins traditionally are buried barefoot.

The Capuchins of San Giovanni Rotondo, who were represented at the exhumation, said the skull and parts of the upper body showed serious signs of decay, which was blamed on humidity in the coffin due to the fact that it had been placed in a new burial chamber and the masonry had not yet dried when Padre Pio was interred.

Padre Pio's remains have been moved to a room set up in the adjacent Capuchin convent where he lived for many years.

Technicians will use chemicals to prepare the body for long-term preservation.

The body will be placed in a new glass coffin and is scheduled to be in place for public viewing beginning April 24.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Taize prayer service* is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taize is a meditative prayer that mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — As part of a 40 Days for Life pro-life campaign Feb. 6-March 16, pro-life Catholics are encouraged to take part in a *peaceful vigil* outside the Family

Reproductive Health clinic, 700 E. Hebron St. Contact Andrea Hines at (704) 996-4597 or [hinesal@aol.com](mailto:hinesal@aol.com), Bethany Witz at (704) 492-8465 or [bethanywitz@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanywitz@hotmail.com), or visit [www.charlottevigil.com](http://www.charlottevigil.com).

CHARLOTTE — Catholic parishes and schools will be participating in the 12th annual *St. Patrick's Day Parade* March 15 at 10:30 a.m. The parade begins at the corner of Tryon and 9th Sts. and will head south on Tryon St. to 3rd St. The St. Patrick's Day festival, featuring Irish music and dancing, takes place on Tryon St. between 3rd and 1st Sts. from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — *Eucharistic adoration for children* is held the second Wednesday of the month at 4:15 p.m. during the school year, led by Father Timothy Reid, pastor, at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd.

CHARLOTTE — Attention Polish speaking Catholics! St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will have a *Polish-language Mass* on Palm Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m. Confessions will be available from 2 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — A *Blood Give-In Sunday* will be held March 16 in the parish gym at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Donors will be required to provide identification (i.e., driver's license or Red Cross blood donor card). A sign-up table will be in the narthex March 8-9. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins welcome, but will be taken as time permits.

CHARLOTTE — "Watch With Me," a Lenten retreat for men, will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., 8:30-11 a.m. March 15. All men interested in a morning of reflection are welcome to attend. Watch and pray with the Lord as he experiences the anguish, fear and disappointment during his agony in the garden. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. For more information, e-mail Joe Breen at [joebreen62@aol.com](mailto:joebreen62@aol.com).

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## FROM THE VATICAN

# Number of priests increases, but not as fast as number of Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest church statistics show that the number of priests and seminarians in the world continues to increase, but not as fast as the general Catholic population.

The statistics from the end of 2006 also confirm a gradual geographical shift in vocations from Europe and the Americas to Africa and Asia.

The sampling of statistics was released Feb. 29 in connection with the presentation of the 2008 edition of the Vatican yearbook, known as the *Annuario Pontificio*, which catalogs the church's presence in each diocese.

The Vatican said the global Catholic population increased during 2006 by 1.4 percent, from 1.115 billion to 1.131 billion.

The number of priests in the world

also rose, but by 0.21 percent.

At the end of 2006 there were 407,262 priests in the world, 851 more than at the beginning of the year.

The ratio of Catholics to priests has increased steadily in recent decades. In 2006, it was 2,777 Catholics for every priest, while in 1981 it was 1,932 Catholics per priest.

The Vatican said the number of seminarians increased by 0.9 percent in 2006.

At the end of the year, there were 115,480 seminarians: 37,150 in the Americas; 30,702 in Asia; 24,034 in Africa; 22,618 in Europe; and 976 in Oceania.

African and Asian seminarians made up 47 percent of the global total. Twenty-five years ago, they represented 28 percent of the total.

MINT HILL — Sister Veronica Grover presents "The History of the Catholic Church" Saturdays during Lent (March 15) 3-4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. All are welcome. No admission. To register, contact Mary Adams at (704) 545-1224.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

STONEVILLE — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its *annual Lenten mini retreat*, led by Father Louis Canino, March 13 at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd. Gathering starts at 10 a.m. Carpools leave at 9:15 a.m. from St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro. For more information, contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. All are welcome. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or [stalscoordinator@charter.net](mailto:stalscoordinator@charter.net).

HICKORY — A *Catholic Scripture study* is held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesday nights 6:45-8:45 p.m. It consists of small group discussions followed by a lecture on a particular Scripture. For adults but high school youths are encouraged to join. This year, the group is studying the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail [stalscss@charter.net](mailto:stalscss@charter.net).

## SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. For more information, call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — Join Father Ray Williams for "In

the Autumn of Our Lives," a day of worship and reflection for those over 40. The program begins with Mass, followed by breakfast, a talk by Father Williams, and lunch. March 15, 9 a.m. at St. Francis church, 299 Maple St. For more information or to make reservations, call (828) 524-2289.

HAYESVILLE — The diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity sponsors a *Financial Fitness Fair* at the Moss Memorial Library 11 a.m.-5 p.m. March 17. The focus will be on retirement. Stop by to receive information on restoring credit, debt reduction and filing taxes. Free and open to the public. For more information, call Claudie Burchfield at (828) 835-3535.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Let the "Why Catholic?" program deepen your understanding of the Mass and sacraments through small group meetings weekly during Lent — 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. Sundays — at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr. Call Dick or Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968 to register.

SYLVA — *Divine Mercy Sunday* will be celebrated March 30 at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. Eucharistic adoration, communal prayer and song will be held 3-4 p.m. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**March 9 (3 p.m.)**  
Lenten pilgrimage for youths, young adults  
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

**March 11 (11 a.m.)**  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**March 16 (11 a.m.)**  
Palm Sunday Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**March 18 (10 a.m.)**  
Chrism Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

# Papal preacher: Church risks obscuring word of God with excess words

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church today risks obscuring the word of God with too many useless words of its own, said the preacher of the papal household.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, in a Lenten meditation to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials Feb. 29, said preachers ought to focus more on the essential Gospel message and less on their own embellishments.

The "chatter" of the profane world has little to do with the church's mission, Father Cantalamessa said.

"Too many human words, too many useless words, too many speeches, too many documents," he said.

"In the age of mass communication, the church too risks sinking into the straw of useless words, pronounced just for the sake of saying them, written just because there are magazines and newspapers to fill," he said.

Father Cantalamessa said preachers

would do well to stick to the "simple and plain word of God" rather than filter it through "a thousand distinctions and clarifications and additions and explanations."

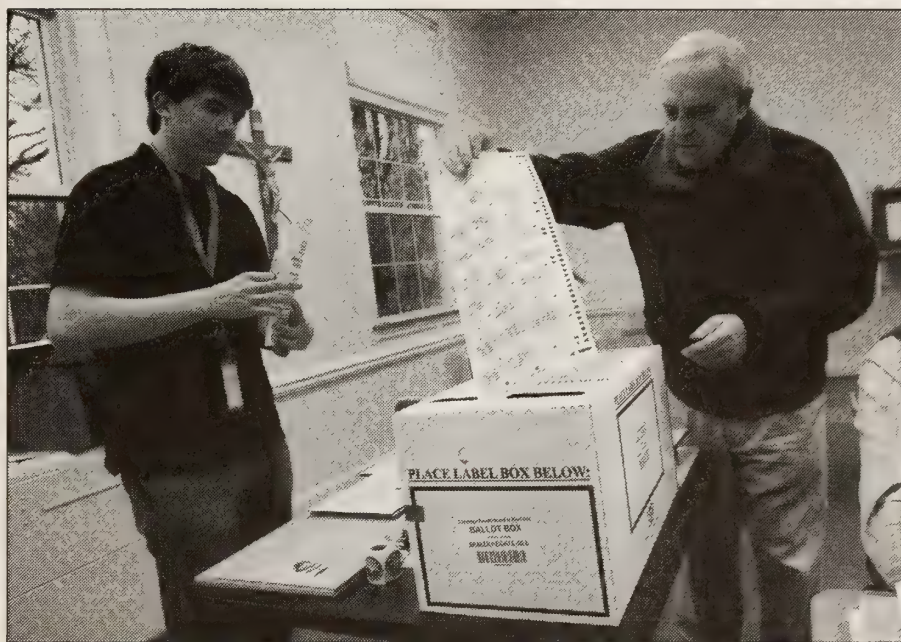
These explanations may even be correct ones, but they end up weakening the impact of the Gospel in people's hearts, he said.

He said preachers should also be careful not to allow their talks to be exploited for political or partisan purposes.

When the preacher has no realistic chance of bringing his listeners to the point where he can say, "Convert and believe," then it's probably better just to witness the Gospel in silence, he said.

When writing sermons or similar talks, Father Cantalamessa said, preachers should leave room for divine stimulation. Rather than praying afterward, as if to ask God to bless their words, they should pray beforehand for inspiration, he said.

# In the ballot box



CNS PHOTO/SHANNON STAPLETON, REUTERS

Leon Cabinet, 80, casts his ballot March 3 at a polling station at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Cleveland for Ohio's presidential primary. The state offered early voting for the March 4 Democratic primary contest between Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. Clinton won about 54 percent of the Ohio vote in nearly complete returns.

# Vatican, Muslim representatives establish Catholic-Muslim Forum

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Representatives of the Vatican and of the 138 Muslim scholars who wrote to Pope Benedict XVI last October proposing a new dialogue have established the Catholic-Muslim Forum.

The forum will sponsor a seminar in Rome Nov. 4-6 with 24 scholars from each side, according to a statement released at the end of a March 4-5 planning meeting at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict will meet with the seminar participants in November.

Accepting the central topic suggested by the 138 in their letter to the pope and other Christian leaders, the seminar planners have said the theme will be "Love of God, Love of Neighbor."

The Nov. 4 session will focus on the theological and spiritual foundations of Christian and Muslim teachings about the obligation to love God and one's neighbor. The second day will focus on "human dignity and mutual respect" and the third day will be a conference open to the public.

Vatican participants included: Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue president; Msgr. Khaled Akasheh, of the council's section for Muslim relations; Comboni Father Miguel Guixot, Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies president; and Jesuit Father Christian Troll, professor of Islam at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University.



# Parents of six add school endowment to their will

ENDOWMENT, from page 1

Kernersville, the Lassiters view their contribution as a way to give back to the school in appreciation for the quality education their children are receiving.

"By leaving some charitable gift to the school, you are ensuring the educational future of not only your own children who benefited from it, but of the children to come," said Catherine Lassiter.

The Lassiters, who were instrumental in the effort to establish the endowment at St. Leo the Great School, said generosity is not about how much you give.

"It doesn't have to be some gigantic gift. Any kind of gift, when multiplied by many people or parishioners, will make the school very strong," said Catherine Lassiter.

Reynolds Lassiter added, "The key point is the importance of starting the endowment and everybody contributing to it."

The St. Leo the Great School Endowment Fund was established with the intention of providing financial assistance for the general needs of the school.

"It's just one more avenue for making the school financially secure for the future," said Catherine Lassiter.

Since its institution in 2005, the endowment has grown to nearly \$112,000. For now, the interest is being rolled back into the endowment, but eventually the income will be used for scholarships and to help with general operating costs of the school.

"We try to encourage more people to consider remembering the parishes, schools, agencies and Catholic organizations of the diocese in their estate planning. As members of the Catholic Heritage Society, the Lassiters are two of more than 850 people who plan to remember the church in their estate," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office and director of the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

"It is a way of living out another aspect of stewardship that allows individuals to leave legacies to what they value in life," he said.

The foundation is a non profit

organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the donor's estate plan or in an endowment agreement.

Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund. A committee of three to five members is set up for each endowment to determine how funds will be distributed.

"I believe that any organization that doesn't have an endowment won't exist 10 years from now," said Reynolds Lassiter.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Established in 1994, the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte provides endowments for the diocese and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

Over the past 13 years, more than \$3.7 million has been made available for distribution by 165 endowments to parishes, schools and agencies in the diocese.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail [jkkelley@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jkkelley@charlottediocese.org).

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COURTESY PHOTO BY PEGGY GIBBONS

Emanuel Puente works on a sewing machine while Yvette Pozos stands with her finished quilt during the "Quilts of Love" confirmation service hours project at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

## Confirmation candidates create 'Quilts of Love'

CHARLOTTE — Youths preparing for their first confirmation took part in a "Quilts of Love" service hours project at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

The 13 seventh- and eighth-grade confirmation candidates crafted 24 quilts during the project, which was held on Wednesdays from Jan. 16 to Feb. 13.

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor, blessed the quilts during Mass Feb. 23. The quilts then were distributed by the youths and volunteers to parishioners in area nursing homes and to shut-ins and long-term hospital patients.

At first, not all of the youths were excited about the concept of sewing — especially the boys, according to Peggy Gibbons, project coordinator.

"Still ... at the first session of the project, some brave males showed up to see what they could produce with a little time and talent," she said.

Ila Martin, an experienced quilter and parishioner, led a team of adult instructors to guide the youths, who went from knowing little about sewing to producing handmade works of art.

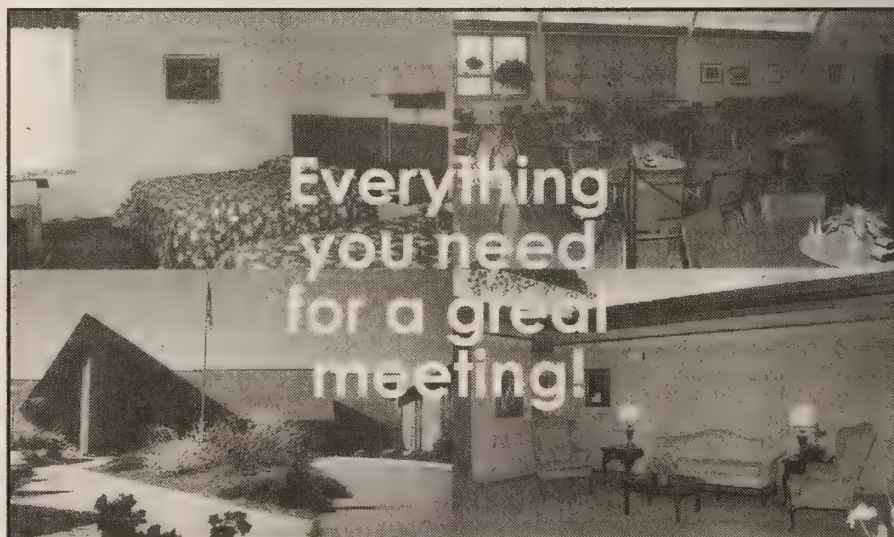
"As the students began to become more familiar with the sewing machines and techniques, less time was spent asking for assistance and greater focus went to layout, sewing and finishing techniques," said Gibbons.

"The designs and creativity of the students made the room each Wednesday night such an enthusiastic environment that even the adults began to show up one hour early each week," she said. "Parents who dropped their children off the first week or two began to stick around just to be part of each session."

Pearl Ann Kracke, a longtime parishioner, crocheted eight lap blankets to be distributed along with the quilts. Parish groups and volunteers provided food during the quilting sessions, and supplies for the project were donated.

"When the notice in the bulletin asked for materials and supplies, the phone started ringing with donations from as far away as Asheville," she said.

Many youths asked to return next year as teaching assistants for the project.



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## FROM THE COVER

# Deacons recommit to ministry at annual Mass

DEACONS, from page 1

said Deacon Louis Pais, director of the permanent diaconate for the diocese.

In his homily, Bishop Jugis said he looks forward to celebrating the recommitment Mass with the deacons and their wives each year.

"The bonds of friendship in ministry are strengthened by our being together with the Lord," he said.

In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry.

From about the fifth century until the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, it was used in the Latin rite almost exclusively to describe the final stage in preparation for ordination to the priesthood.

The council decreed that the diaconate also could be restored as a permanent and separate rank in the Latin rite and that married men could be ordained to this rank.

Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate in 1967.

As ordained ministers, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various liturgies of the church.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, all active deacons also are required to participate in continuing education and an annual retreat. Like the priests, who recommit themselves to priestly service at the chrism Mass during Holy Week each year, the permanent deacons gather

The permanent diaconate is one of the ministries supported in part by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. The DSA campaign runs Feb. 2-March 9.



for a similar recommitment Mass.

During Lent, the entire Catholic Church is called to "deep, interior conversion and change of heart, to turn away from sin and unhealthy attachments," said Bishop Jugis.

"The ministry of the deacon requires this humility and interior conversion, also. There is no room in his heart for selfishness, but only for the Lord," said the bishop.

"By exercising his ministry with love, patience and understanding, the deacon shows a heart that has been given over to the Lord," said Bishop Jugis.

## Rite of candidacy

At the recommitment Mass, Bishop Jugis received nine men as candidates to the permanent diaconate during the rite of candidacy.

"The Holy Spirit has been working in you, and now in this ceremony the love of Christ moves you to express openly your desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and humanity," said Bishop Jugis to the candidates.

Eight of the men are married. A permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married.

However, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a deacon is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination.

Bishop Jugis reminded the men what would be expected of them as deacons, and he encouraged them to continue their journeys to the permanent diaconate.

"Continue your formation for the diaconate in a spirit of openness, humility and faithfulness to Christ and his church. Grow in a spirit of prayer," Bishop Jugis told the candidates.

"Since you will one day be ordained as deacons for the ministry of the Word, desire even now to spread the Gospel and bring all people to Christ," said the bishop.

Other rites candidates will receive during the approximately six-year formation process are the rite of lector



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Permanent deacons and their wives are pictured during the deacons' recommitment Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 1.

and the rite of acolyte.

Deacon Pais said candidates must possess a spirit of openness and prayer, humility, faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus and a willingness to spread the Gospel through word and actions.

"That is what the concept of the diaconate is all about," he said.

Deacon Pais celebrated his 30 years as a permanent deacon last May. Aside from his family, he said his greatest joy is being able to serve the people of God in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I hope to continue serving the church in whatever capacity God gives me, in order to grow deeper in his love and to conform my life more closely to Jesus Christ," he said.

Contributing to this story was Kevin E. Murray.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail [gpotkay@triad.rr.com](mailto:gpotkay@triad.rr.com).

## HISTORY OF THE DEACONS

A deacon is an ordained minister in the Catholic Church and is one of the three forms of the sacrament of holy orders, the origins of which can be found in the Acts of the Apostles.

In the Acts, the Greek converts complained the widows of their community were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. The Apostles appointed "seven reputable and spirit-filled men to administer the distribution of goods to the needy" (Acts 6:3). Thus, the Acts of the Apostles cites the ordination of St. Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch to the order of diaconate.

The diaconate flourished for the first several centuries until tensions between the diaconate and the presbyterate caused the diaconate to become only the final stage in preparation for the priesthood. The restoration of the permanent diaconate came with the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Thus, since 1967, there exists both a transitional diaconate and a permanent diaconate within the Catholic Church.

— by Deacon Gerald Potkay

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## Mixing it up

### Joint bake sale raises funds for hungry

CLEMMONS — Two women's groups worked — or more accurately, baked — together to raise funds for the hungry.

Members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild and Columbiettes Bishop Greco auxiliary held the "Great American Bake Sale" at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Feb. 2-3.

The sale raised \$1,240 for area food pantries.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the foundress of the Sisters of Charity religious order in the United States and established the parochial school system in this country.

The guild was the first parish group formed at Holy Family Church in 1978 and, at that time, handled all of the parish

necessities, including spiritual needs, social functions and even housekeeping.

Most of these functions are handled currently by a variety of parish commissions.

The Columbiettes are the ladies auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. The Bishop Greco auxiliary was formed in 1992, making it the first Columbiette auxiliary in North Carolina. About 75 women belong to the group today.

While Columbiettes help the Knights with numerous events, they have their own meetings, organize their own money and come up with their own projects.

The Columbiettes have given money to various causes, including Catholic Social Services, a women's shelter and Habitat for Humanity Inc.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild and Columbiettes Bishop Greco auxiliary are pictured during the "Great American Bake Sale," held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Feb. 2-3. Pictured (from left): Janice Pomper; Ellen Tommasi, guild president; Linda Robertson; Joy DiLembo, Mary Long, Columbiette president; and Kris Miller.

## Old traditions, new meanings



COURTESY PHOTO

Ann Michel teaches how to decorate "pysanky" eggs during a meeting of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Feb. 21. Michel, a local artist, has held pysanky egg workshops in churches throughout the area.

Pysanky, which means to write, is a Ukrainian tradition of applying layers of design to eggs by alternating wax and dyes. Using "kistkas" — a pencil-like tool with an attached copper cone — artists write their first layer of symbols with hot wax. The eggs are then dropped into a vat of dye. The wax prevents that color from covering the design. Subsequent designs are applied and the dye process continues. A coat of varnish protects and helps preserve the finished egg.

According to custom, the decorated eggs are usually intended as a gift for another. Legend states that every egg written helps foster peace in the world and negates the influences of evil.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Checking charity



COURTESY PHOTO

Barbara Davis and Eddie Maney (seated) of Pathways for the Future, an organization that assists people with disabilities, receive a \$1,012 check from Nate Stroot and Knights of Columbus Council 9722 of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva Jan. 24. Through their annual Tootsie Roll sale, the Knights also were able to present two other checks of \$1,012 each to Jackson County Special Olympics and Macon Citizens for the Handicapped. Other Knights pictured (in back) are (from left) Gene Schwiezer, Allen Turston, Jan Chervenik, Mike Prindiville, Nick Norgaard, Bill Watson, Nick Walsh, Jerry Ketchmark and Skip Karby.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ken Jewell (center), grand knight of Knights of Columbus St. James Council 7152 at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, is pictured during the council's annual spaghetti dinner Feb. 24 with representatives of organizations that received donations from the Knights. Through its annual Tootsie Roll campaign, the council presented checks for \$970 each to (pictured, from left) Paul Klaene of Autism Society of North Carolina, Debbie Brown of Iredell Vocational Workshop and Allison Martin and Dawn Ciletti of Iredell-Statesville schools' Exceptional Children Program. Special Olympics also received a \$970 check.

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COURTESY PHOTO BY BETSY HOYT

Tony Belline (right) of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville is pictured after presenting the Staddon-Cain Scholarship Award to Nicole Thomas (left) Feb. 15. Also pictured is Nicole's family: (from left) father, Scott, brother Jacob, mother Elizabeth and sister Maria.

## Knights honor youth with scholarship

KERNERSVILLE — Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville recently presented a scholarship to a young member of the parish.

The Staddon-Cain Scholarship Award was presented to Nicole Thomas during a fish fry fundraising dinner Feb. 15.

Tony Belline council chancellor, presented this year's \$500 award.

The scholarship fund is to perpetuate the education of young individuals in the Catholic faith. Candidates are considered based on their academic achievements as well as community- and church-related accomplishments.

Nicole is home-schooled and also

takes classes at Forsyth Tech Community College in Winston-Salem.

"She is a very energetic young woman who is involved in many parish events, willingly giving of her time to religious ministries," said Fred Hogan, a Knight.

Nicole also received the Knights' outstanding Catholic youth award for 2007.

The Staddon-Cain scholarship is named after John Staddon and Frank Cain, two men who married Catholic wives and supported the Catholic Church and its teachings.

The annual award was first presented by the Knights in 1987.

## Knights of the kitchen



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are Armand Mosca, Mike Asher, Dave Shephard and Jim Foreman, members of Knights of Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, who were among the Knights working in the kitchen during the council's annual wives appreciation dinner Feb. 9. Knights dressed in tuxedos and served 24 dinners during the event. Afterward, each wife received a long-stemmed red rose and a heart-shaped box of chocolates.





CNS FILE PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

A priest baptizes an infant at a church in Irondequoit, N.Y., in this 2007 photo. In the Catholic rite the minister uses the invocation "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

## Vatican says baptism using wrong words not valid

BAPTISM, from page 1

regarding the validity of baptisms using that formula.

Asked whether a baptism performed with that formula — or a similar one referring to the "Creator, Liberator and Sustainer" — would be valid, the congregation answered "Negative."

Asked whether people who were initiated with a rite using these formulas would now need to be baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," the congregation answered "Affirmative."

The congregation said Pope Benedict XVI "approved these responses" and ordered their publication.

If either formula — recently initiated in North America to avoid referring to the Trinity with masculine names — was used, the person is not yet formally a Christian and any subsequent sacraments the person received also are invalid, said Cardinal Urbano Navarrete in a commentary commissioned by the doctrinal congregation.

"Persons who were baptized or will be baptized in the future with the formulas in question in reality are not baptized," the cardinal wrote.

If they are now adults and want to be baptized, they must receive the instruction prescribed for all preparing for baptism and they should receive baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist during the same Mass, he said.

The most serious practical consequences, he said, are likely to be seen in the area of marriage where no sacrament exists if both spouses had been baptized with an invalid formula.

Even if only one of the spouses had been baptized with an invalid formula, there still is no valid sacrament of matrimony unless before the wedding the couple had obtained the dispensation needed for a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Navarrete also said that,

obviously, confirmation and holy orders also are invalid when conferred on people baptized with an invalid formula.

In addition, he said, anyone who attempted to baptize someone using an invalid formula is subject to church penalties, which should be applied since it is "seriously illegitimate and unjust to deceive both the baptized and the community" by presenting the rite as a baptism.

In a separate commentary also commissioned by the doctrinal congregation, Msgr. Antonio Miralles said "expressions that invalidate the conferral of a true baptism cannot be tolerated by the church."

The monsignor, a consultant to the doctrinal congregation, said the church believes it has no authority "to change that which Christ himself instituted" when he told his disciples to go out and baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The problem with using "creator" and "redeemer" is not that they do not identify God as male, but that they "subvert faith in the Trinity" because they do not make clear the relationship among the three distinct persons, he said.

For example, "God is eternally Father in relation to his only begotten Son, who is not eternally Son except in relation to the Father."

Msgr. Miralles said that the formula "creator, redeemer, sanctifier" is not Trinitarian because it blurs the distinctions among the three persons of the Trinity who all are involved together in the divine actions of creation, redemption and sanctification.

The monsignor also argued that the use of the recent formulas — more common among Protestants than among Catholics — could have a negative impact on ecumenism, because a common baptism is essential for Christian unity.

A baptism recognized as valid by all dialogue partners is what allows them to call each other Christians, he said.

"All of us Christians are called to remain solidly faithful to the unity," which calls for a common profession of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all," he said.

## U.S. officials: Vatican statement clarifies validity of baptisms

BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Doctrinal and ecumenical officials at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the release of a Vatican statement addressing the validity of baptisms was to answer bishops' questions and to provide consistency in the church's practice.

"I think if you are over the age of 45 to 50 you have nothing to fear" regarding the validity of baptisms, said Father Tom Weinandy, a Capuchin Franciscan who is executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Doctrine.

Those in the younger generation shouldn't "have a huge amount of fear" either, he added.

According to the statement released by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Feb. 29, a baptism administered "in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier" or formulas that do not say "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" is not a baptism at all. If the baptism is invalid, so are the other sacraments the person may have received, such as matrimony.

"If you are not validly baptized," and thus not validly married, "a person needs to get rebaptized and remarried," explained Father Weinandy.

However, unless a witness at the baptism knows that an incorrect formula was used, "it is assumed they used the right formula," he said. "The presumption is the obvious truth that the baptism is valid."

The Vatican's statement was released "because of the abuse (by priests and Protestant ministers at baptisms) and the questions that have come from it," said Father Weinandy.

The Vatican "wants to make sure the formula is the proper formula," he said Feb. 29. Instances in which a baptism has been considered invalid have been "very, very, very few and far between," he said.

Father Francis Tiso, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, referred to a 1993 document issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity that addressed a similar issue.

The "Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism" says: "Baptism is conferred with water and with a formula which clearly

indicates that baptism is done in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

"It is therefore of the utmost importance for all the disciples of Christ that baptism be administered in this manner by all and that the various churches and ecclesial communities arrive as closely as possible at an agreement about its significance and celebration," it notes.

Father Tiso said the Feb. 29 Vatican clarification simply says that a person has to be rebaptized if the original baptism was not administered in such a manner.

The only real change he can predict from the Vatican's most recent clarification is that some Christian leaders would be concerned over recognizing their own local congregations' decisions and autonomy over the formula they use at baptisms. Because many non-Catholic denominations do not have a hierarchical structure like the Catholic Church, many decisions on such matters are determined by local congregations.

But, he said, the Vatican's statement will "help ecumenical leaders make the case to local leaders to follow the biblical formulas" and that this decision will have a broader impact.

Father Tiso said he currently is working on a document with four of the Reformed churches, which should be finalized in mid-March. The document includes an affirmation for baptisms to be mutually accepted by the Catholic and Reformed churches that include the use of water and the biblical formula "Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Paulist Father Ronald Roberson, whose work focuses on relations with the Orthodox churches said "there's no disagreement whatsoever with the Orthodox churches" on the subject of the formula and validity of baptisms.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Baptism is one of the three sacraments of initiation (along with confirmation and the Eucharist). The rite of baptism varies — it can be conferred either by immersion in water or by the pouring of water in Catholic teaching and practice.

The "Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism," a 1993 document by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said: "Baptism is conferred with water and with a formula which clearly indicates that baptism is done in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."



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# Maintaining 'a proactive presence'

*Pope's visit to U.N.  
'eagerly awaited,'  
says Vatican nuncio*

BY JULIE ASHER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Pope Benedict XVI's April 18 visit to the United Nations "is eagerly awaited because the pope is seen as a moral authority offering clear guidance on the foundational values of life and of human society," said the Vatican's U.N. ambassador.

"In this sense the pope is considered an authority able to interpret and rally political will to work for the good of the international community," said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the ambassador, or nuncio.

The archbishop spoke to Catholic News Service at the headquarters of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See in New York.

Pope Benedict will address the U.N. General Assembly the morning of April 18, after a brief flight from Washington, where he arrives April 15. He returns to Rome the evening of April 20.

Asked how U.N. member nations regard the Catholic Church, Archbishop Migliore said they respect the church's "contribution to keep alive, nurture and refresh the dimension of spirituality and transcendence, without which our society would fall apart."

Because of the church's "strong message of universal brotherhood, reconciliation and closeness to the people," countries look to the church "for dialogue and cooperation



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

This photo taken Jan. 17 shows the chair used by Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's representative to the United Nations, when he observes the proceedings of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Pope Benedict XVI will address the General Assembly April 18.

on development," he added.

U.N. agencies, funds and programs concerned with education, development, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping and advocacy on human rights, he said, "work very closely with the local churches ... even in the farthest corners of the world."

He said it is appropriate that the Catholic Church, which has diplomatic relations with 177 countries, maintains "a proactive presence" at the United Nations "to help shape the debate and

the decisions, especially on fundamental values like life and freedom, justice and peace, coexistence and the well-being of the world population."

Among issues to be tackled this year by the United Nations, the one the church is most concerned about is addressing the needs of the world's 1 billion people "left behind by global economic growth," Archbishop Migliore said. They are "the forgotten ones."

In outlining priorities for 2008, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has committed the United Nations to helping make the world "more prosperous and healthy" and has proposed that the U.N. make it the year of the "bottom billion," the archbishop said.

The United Nations also has "to stay the course in many old and new situations of conflict, of fragile peace," and where the "early symptoms of gross violations of human rights" are emerging, the archbishop said.

It takes "a strong political will" and "a sensitivity ... to fundamental human values" to make decisions and implement mechanisms that "effectively work for the common good, the practice of a culture of peace, and a firm commitment to the responsibility to protect," he said.

## 'An indispensable forum'

Currently 192 U.N. member states make up the General Assembly, the main deliberative U.N. body. Various organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member governments, but under the U.N. Charter only the Security Council has the power to make decisions member governments must carry out.

The council has five permanent seats, held by China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and 10 temporary seats that rotate among other countries every two years. Permanent members can veto resolutions.

Critics of the council say it seems unable to act decisively when confronted with a crisis.

Regarding the criticism, Archbishop Migliore said he gets "terribly frustrated and critical when I see that the U.N. cannot devise or put in place an effective mechanism to prevent, stop or reverse situations of gross violations of human rights." But he said his frustration is really aimed at mechanisms countries will not change so they can "preserve certain interests or maintain a balance of power" rather than respond "to the real demands of the peoples of the world."

The United Nations is "an indispensable forum," he added.

Among its accomplishments, the archbishop said, are treaties and conventions — including those on the rights of children, the disabled, and migrants and refugees — that are "vital, legally binding instruments in assuring respect for human dignity and rights."

He said its International Criminal Court and special tribunals have helped to "restore trust in justice and stop or deter impunity" in regions or countries "marked by wars and massacres."

He also noted U.N. humanitarian assistance to countries suffering man-made and natural calamities and efforts to fight HIV/AIDS.

And while frustrations exist in the area of disarmament, he said the United Nations has made progress destroying stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists and others.

Peacekeeping operations are "the apple of the eye of the U.N.," he said.

They have not always succeeded — and "a few times may have failed miserably" — but U.N. peacekeeping efforts have kept tensions in many places "from becoming full-blown armed conflicts or stopped armed conflicts or massive violations of human rights and restored peace and the rule of law."

## Unity over conflict

As a permanent observer to the United Nations, the Vatican cannot vote, but Archbishop Migliore said it closely follows and actively participates in negotiations on conventions, resolutions or decisions about peace and security; development; the environment; the rights of children, women and the elderly; human rights; information and culture; and peace-building.

"We plead for and try to advance innumerable humanitarian causes brought to our attention," he added.

However, he said his most "important daily activity takes place very early in the morning," when he celebrates Mass: "Daily meditation on the word of God sheds light on the questions of the day."

"At the initial rite of reconciliation, I bring before the Lord my sins and those of the U.N. family in its slow response that penalizes the poor, in its verbosity, in its smoke-screening and delaying tactics during certain debates that result in nonaction ..." Archbishop Migliore said.

"The miracle worked by Jesus does not stop at the transformation of bread into his body, but extends to the church and to the entire human family," he said. It is "a lesson of humility and tenacity ... because conflicts are always with us, but unity is created" by Christ, he added.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## An analysis of faith professions inside the Oval Office

REVIEWED BY MARY BRESLIN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In a charged environment where presidential primary hopefuls such as Mitt Romney, a Mormon, and Mike Huckabee, an ordained Baptist minister, acknowledge their religious beliefs while at the same time making it plain that for them church and state are sacred but separate entities, Randall Balmer's book, "God in the White House: A History"—an examination of U.S. presidents' responses and reactions to religion from 1960 to 2004—is a timely release.

To read this book, begin with the 50 pages that make up the appendix and read the seven speeches from Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

The challenge will be to sort through the spin of a good speechwriter and search for a sense of heartfelt sincerity on the part of the men who delivered the words. The section is pivotal, providing authentic historical context and stimulating the reader's interest at the same time.

Referring to himself as "an evangelical Christian," Balmer is a prolific writer and far from a novice on the topic; he is a professor of American religious history at New York's Columbia University.

Balmer, a regular contributor to Christian and secular publications, sets out to "trace the transition" between 1960, when Kennedy made an obviously convincing plea for voters to disregard his faith affiliation, to 2004, when candidates for the highest office in the country were called upon by voters to "fully disclose their religious views."

The author makes it clear that his writings are not intended as a "comprehensive history" or directed toward a political science perspective.

Instead he launches a president-by-president examination of how personal faith and organized religious groups intersected, sometimes collided, inside the Oval Office over four decades.

Balmer theorizes that "voices of faith" should be involved in the political process, but "faith loses its prophetic voice" if aligned too closely with a particular movement or party.

The reader will find a winner in this text—it is organized, well written, carefully researched and meticulously documented.

The sign of a seasoned academic, Balmer remains just on the fringe of the discourse, mostly refraining from personal asides and resisting opinion and judgment. The development of the "religious right" and its powerful influence in Washington, the number of professed born-again Christians who sat behind the desk in the Oval Office, those presidents who considered themselves evangelicals and those who were mostly indifferent to religious affiliation are detailed in this book.

The most influential religious leader who was most welcomed and embraced by the majority of these presidents and their families was the Rev. Billy Graham, according to the author's research.

Balmer draws an interesting parallel between Carter and George W. Bush, writing that both men seized the opportunity to be portrayed as "redemptive" to a population morally wounded by the negative effects of their predecessors—Richard M. Nixon and Clinton.

Rhetoric aside, the revelations that flowed from the presidents' speeches printed in the appendix are at best a glimpse, a hint of the direction in which their moral compasses were pointed.

However, Balmer cautions: "A candidate's faith (or lack of same)" is a legitimate concern for voters and "an insight into his (or her) character, but it should be only one of many considerations." He continues, warning that faith is at risk of being "prostituted" when used "in pursuit of political power."

*Breslin is the editor/general manager of the Catholic Explorer, the newspaper of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill.*

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 16, 2008

March 16, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

### Cycle A, Readings:

Procession: Matthew 21:1-11

1) Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

2) Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 to 27:66

Eucharist is true  
'friendship bread'  
that unites us  
with God

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few years ago I received a plastic bag with a lump of unbaked dough—a "starter" for what an acquaintance called "friendship bread."

The idea was to incorporate the lump into a new batch of bread dough so that the entire mass would rise. At least this was the theory; in reality, the contents of the bag went sour, smelled rotten, and turned the whole batch into a gray, watery mess.

I had no choice but to throw it in the garbage and give up on the bread, if not the friendship.

In Matthew's Gospel, written for a Jewish-Christian community, the evangelist is careful to note certain important details connected with Jesus' suffering and death that escape most of us contemporary Christians.

The seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread, which coincided with the annual Jewish feast of Passover, began with the

avid search for and ceremonial removal of every trace of leavened bread from the home. This action symbolized that the "leaven"—which in Jewish tradition stood for the contaminating effects of sin, decay and death—would be purged anew from the community to make way for the unleavened bread of holiness and purity of heart.

It was this kind of bread—not ordinary leavened bread—that Jesus identified at the Last Supper with his body, given as the beginning of a new covenantal relationship between us and God.

The entire season of Lent has been a preparation for this most holy of weeks that culminates in the great feast of Easter. Through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we have been encouraged anew to seek out and remove the contaminating "leaven" of sin from our lives.

As we meditate upon the sacrifice of Jesus our paschal lamb in the days ahead, we prepare to celebrate the freedom from sin and death that he brings, in the same way that Israel celebrated their liberation from Egypt the night of their first Passover.

It is no accident then that we use pure, unleavened bread in our celebration of the Eucharist. It is the bread of a renewed relationship—the true "friendship bread" that unites us with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Questions:

What sorts of "leaven" have you needed to sweep from your life this Lent? How do you anticipate renewing your friendship with God this Holy Week? Is participation in the Eucharist a part of this renewal?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9-15

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent)**, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. Joseph)**, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 16-22

**Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion)**, Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday)**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday)**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Saturday (Holy Saturday)**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 18:1-10.

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THE CATHOLIC  
NEWS HERALD



# 'Concerns of human dignity'

*Bishops say show exploits, degrades those whose bodies are on display*

BY JACK SMITH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Two Catholic prelates said they regard the exhibit "Bodies Revealed" that opened Feb. 29 in Kansas City as "an unfortunate exploitation of that which is 'real' to teach something that could be accomplished by use of models."

"As such it represents a kind of 'human taxidermy' that degrades the actual people who, through their bodies, once lived, loved, prayed and died," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas and Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

"For these reasons, we do not believe that this exhibit is an appropriate

destination for field trips by our Catholic schools," they added.

The exhibit features an array of human bodies in various poses, all preserved through a process of polymer preservation. Various preserved organs are also in the exhibit, which will be at Kansas City's Union Station through Sept. 1.

The bishops explained that "Catholic moral teaching regards the human person as a unity of soul and body, spirit and matter — beings capable of freedom and love in communion with other persons and with God."

"As such, the body is more than just a vessel for the soul. The church's concern for human dignity extends to the body even after the soul is no longer present," they said.

The two church leaders said that "the bodies of the dead deserve respect and charity, preserving the God-given dignity of the human person."

They acknowledged the church "does allow for — and in some cases commends — the conscientious free choice of persons to 'donate' their bodies for legitimate scientific research and educational purposes. In these instances, the deceased body and its parts deserve respectful interment."

Atlanta-based Premier Exhibitions is the organizer of the Kansas City show; it also produces a show titled "Bodies: The Exhibition," which just opened at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Both shows, say their promoter, are aimed at educating people about the human body and how to take better care of their health.

A competing show called "Body Worlds" also has been on tour in the United States and other countries. It was put together by Gunther von Hagens, a German anatomist who invented a plastination process for preserving

bodies. "Body Worlds" recently came to Discovery Place in Charlotte.

Questions have been raised about the source of some of the cadavers, namely for "Bodies: The Exhibition," considered to have the higher profile of Premier's two shows.

On Feb. 15, following a three-month investigation, ABC's "20/20" aired a story about the Chinese sources of the specimens. Human rights groups have alleged some of them are executed prisoners.

In a statement released before the "20/20" show, Union Station's president and CEO, Andi Udris, acknowledged the exhibit would raise questions.

But he said Premier Exhibitions "assured us that all of the bodies and organ specimens on display in 'Bodies Revealed' were procured from individuals who willingly and knowingly chose to donate their bodies to science."

"Those individuals made their anatomical gifts to accredited medical universities in the People's Republic of China, and all specimens were then received by the Nanjing Suyi Plastination Laboratories in China," Udris said.

However, "Premier Exhibitions has never made (it a) secret that specimens used in 'Bodies: The Exhibition' may be unclaimed or unidentified specimens," Udris added.

Reporter Brian Ross found that contrary to Premier's earlier assertions that specimens for its "Bodies: The Exhibition" show were procured from Dalian Medical University, they had in fact come from Dr. Hong Jin Sui's Dalian Medical University Plastination Co., a for-profit, private company 30 miles from Dalian Medical University.

"20/20" visited the facility and found technicians working on the bodies of both animals and humans. When reporter Ross asked the company manager where the bodies come from and whether they were executed, the manager said he didn't know.

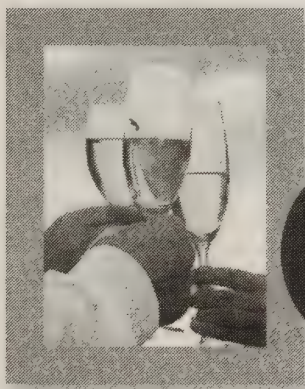
The show also found that Premier Exhibitions avoids laws pertaining to shipping human remains by labeling them "plastic models" on shipping documents.

Congressman Chris Smith, R-N.J., who has played a key role in promoting human rights reforms in China and elsewhere, told ABC the collection of "unclaimed" bodies in China for plastination shows "has every mark of executions and abuse."

Smith's spokesman is preparing a number of responses, including asking the House Foreign Affairs Committee to hold a hearing on the issue. Smith is a member of the committee. He also is drafting legislation to require independent certification that specimens in "Bodies" shows come from donors who have given consent.

In California, Democratic Assemblywoman Fiona Ma from San Francisco is sponsoring legislation in California demanding documentation of consent from donors before "Bodies" exhibitions can be shown in the state. Similar legislation is being considered in Washington and Pennsylvania.

N.Y. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has launched his own investigation of Premier to determine the methods used to obtain the bodies exhibited in the United States. Premier says it will cooperate with the investigation.



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# School celebrates custodian of 35 years

GABE, from page 1

Bobcats apparel in honor of Tindal's favorite basketball team. The kind-hearted custodian looked on from an honorary seat at the center of the stage as students from each grade sang songs and presented him with tokens of their appreciation.

"Gabe is a free-flowing spirit. His generosity, thoughtfulness and his love of life are quite evident in his everyday work," said Sister of St. Joseph Judy Monahan, pastoral associate at St. Ann Church.

Just days before the celebration, Tindal spent the morning cleaning storm drains in the middle of a downpour. Concerned the drains might overflow, he decided the job couldn't wait until after the storm.

It wasn't something he had to do, said Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal. But going above and beyond the call of duty is something Tindal is known for.

Over the years, he has taken courses at Central Piedmont Community College in plumbing and electricity to become more proficient at his job.

"We do not need to call in extra help until we have exhausted Gabe," said Sister Nagle.

For Tindal, the best part of the job is making people happy. "I am thankful to God for giving me the strength to do these things I do," he said.

Tindal started the custodial job at St. Ann School on Feb. 28, 1973, just days after returning from military service in Vietnam. His mother was at the church for bingo one night when she heard an announcement saying the school was in need of a maintenance man.

Sister Nagle said, "She stood up and said 'My son will be here in the morning.'"

Tindal said he remembers showing up for his interview wearing bell bottom pants and sporting a medium-sized afro.

"I just got out of the military and I thought that was the way everybody dressed," he said.

To Tindal's surprise, he was hired on the spot and he has been there ever since. He has since become a permanent fixture at St. Ann School.

"He knows all the children; they're fascinated with him," said Sister Nagle.

Maybe it's because he's so tall; at 6-feet-7-inches, Tindal had a full basketball scholarship to Maryland State

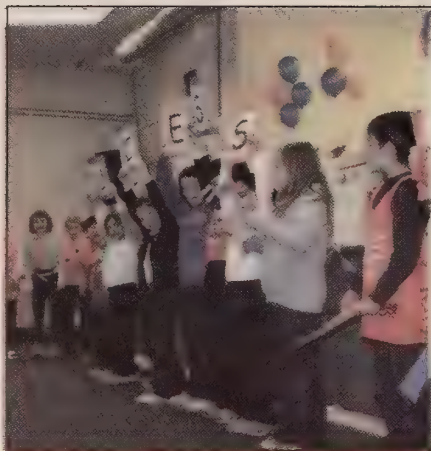


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Students hold up letters spelling "success" during a celebration honoring Gabriel Tindal's 35 years of service to St. Ann School in Charlotte Feb. 28.

University before he was drafted for service in Vietnam. But more than likely it's because of his kind disposition.

"Everybody loves Gabe," said Sister Nagle.

Tindal, a member at Shiloh Baptist Church, said he has great respect for the Catholic faith. It is not uncommon to find him visiting the Blessed Sacrament in church two or three times a day, said Sister Nagle.

He jokingly admits he's outnumbered as a Baptist working at a Catholic school, but, he said, "We all love each other and that's what is so special about St. Ann's."

Tindal has certainly seen changes over the past 35 years. During his tenure, seven pastors, four principals, 112 staff and faculty members, and more than 9,000 students have passed through the halls of the school.

But the biggest change, he said, is that the kids are getting smarter.

"Not smart-mouthed," he clarified, "but 'education-wise,' kids are smarter and more creative."

However, one thing remains the same he said, and that's appreciation.

"Everybody shows their appreciation every day. That's where my energy and love come in."

As far as the future is concerned, Tindal said, "I'm going to hang in here as long as I can."

He says he doesn't foresee retirement until "I'm wore out and wore down and I don't feel that coming on too soon," he said. "I love these kids too much."

Contact staff writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

# 100 days young



COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarten students don their self-made "100" hats to celebrate their 100th day of school at St. Ann School in Charlotte Feb. 5. Other activities to mark the day included collecting 100 cans of food for Samaritan House, sharing 100 items from home, counting how far 100 steps take them and licking lollipops 100 times.

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, a co-educational school with 850 students in grades 9-12, located in Roswell, Georgia, a northern suburb of Atlanta, has an opening for the position of Assistant Principal for Grades 11 and 12.

### Requirements are:

- \* Practicing Catholic
- \* Minimum of 5 years' successful high school teaching experience
- \* Master's degree in Educational Leadership or equivalent; certifiable in Georgia
- \* Ability to work closely with the other two assistant principals and principal, the guidance counselors, students, and parents

### Main duties include:

- \* Managing the academic progress and discipline for the junior and senior classes
- \* Working with the registrar in the scheduling process
- \* Providing formative and summative assessments for upper-grade teachers
- \* Working with the Academic Council on curriculum development and other school issues

This is a 12-month position beginning July 1, 2008. Learn more about Blessed Trinity by visiting [www.btcatholic.org](http://www.btcatholic.org). Send letter of interest and resume to Mr. Frank Moore, Principal, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, 11320 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075, or as a Word document or PDF to [fmoore@btcatholic.org](mailto:fmoore@btcatholic.org). Application deadline: March 21, 2008.

## Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [frajm@st-joseph.com](mailto:frajm@st-joseph.com)

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# Buzzing bees: Students compete, win spelling competitions

Katie Vogel, an eighth-grader at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, and Helen Rasmussen, middle school language arts teacher and spelling bee moderator, are pictured Jan. 30 after Katie won the spelling bee classroom competition. Katie then won an inter-school spelling bee hosted at St. Leo the Great School Feb. 28 and has advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee in Winston-Salem March 30. The winner there will qualify for the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May.

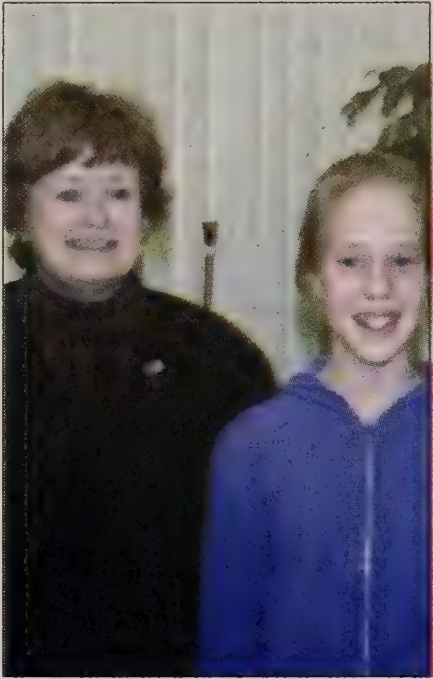


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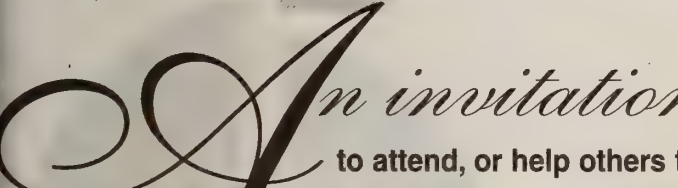


COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, is pictured with the classroom winners of a spelling bee at St. Michael School in Gastonia Feb. 20. Winners pictured (from left): sixth-grader Deven Smirz, eighth-grader Gerod Kimble, seventh-grader Jite Sido, fifth-grader Connor Linden, third-grader Drew Robinson and fourth-grader Anthony Ruden. Connor was runner-up; Jite was the school winner and will represent St. Michael School in a county-wide bee in March.



**to attend, or help others to attend,**

**the International Eucharistic Congress, held in the  
beautiful North American city of Quebec - June 15th-22nd, 2008**



Dear Friend in Christ,

This coming June of 2008, the Church in North America will celebrate a great event for the Faith, an event that is being watched with great anticipation.

The Holy Father has given me the privilege of leading this event, the International Eucharistic Congress, in Quebec City.

And I, in turn, have invited the Holy Father to celebrate our final Mass of the Congress.

Would there be a possibility that you and your family and friends might be able to join us in Quebec in June, and even to send us your support today?

The International Eucharistic Congress is a great opportunity for the new evangelization of North America. It is an occasion to rekindle the flame of the Catholic faith in our countries, where in the past there was a deep unity between the culture and the Faith.

Now, the urgency of Faith is obvious for an increasingly secular and materialistic world. It is not too late to regenerate Christian culture.

Each day, catechesis and testimonies will be offered to the thousands of participants—the present and the future leaders of the Church—and a solemn Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated. There will also be processions of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as special religious events for young adults and families, and activities to promote brotherhood.

We hope that the International Eucharistic Congress will bring about a greater emphasis on the sacred character of the Eucharistic celebration, a deepened understanding of its sacrificial dimension, and a renewal of Eucharistic adoration, prayer, and good works.

This theme, the Eucharist as “Gift of God for the life of the world,” will begin with Sunday’s invocation of the Holy Spirit, who reminds the Church of all that Jesus did and then left in our care.

Monday will focus on Jesus’ institution of the New Covenant, completed by the offering of His own blood, while the following day concentrates on the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. Wednesday invites us to explore the first result of this gift of God; in giving Himself and in being received in the faith of the Church, the Eucharistic Christ founds the Church and opens up the communion of divine persons for the communion of human persons.

The Eucharist gives life to worship, which embraces all of life, prayers and ritual gestures, but also gives life to human relationships, work, joys and sorrows, sufferings and hopes. Thus, Thursday focuses on adoration, as the evening concludes with a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the heart of the city.

The theme of Friday is the Eucharist and mission: it emphasizes charity and engagement for peace and justice.

Finally, the week concludes with teaching on “ordinary” holiness at the heart of the world, inspired and nourished by the Eucharist.

At this great gathering, which will be closely watched and reported by the news media around the world, public testimonies for the essential role of the Faith and witness to the centrality of Jesus in our lives will give us an unparalleled opportunity to evangelize millions upon millions of people, and especially those in our troubled countries—for example, perhaps your own neighbors, family and friends!

First, by your fervent prayers to Almighty God that the Congress will reawaken the faith and ecclesial life of the people of Canada, especially the people of Quebec. For many dioceses throughout North America, there is a direct link to Quebec, which gave birth to the Church on our continent.

Second, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, as Pope John Paul II, and now Pope Benedict XVI, have repeated so often in their magnificent teachings. We are invited to celebrate this Congress together.

Third, I invite you to help me to make this Eucharistic Congress a possibility, a reality, and a blessing for many people in Latin America and in the Third World who might never have the opportunity to experience the graces and blessings of the International Catholic gathering without your generosity and financial assistance.

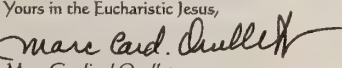
There will also be a myriad of other costs associated with an event of this magnitude – yet our budget is modest, and we seek only to cover what is necessary.


Without the support of our brothers and sisters in the Faith from the United States, our effort cannot be called a complete success.

We must not fail, with the eyes of a skeptical secular world and the media upon us. On the contrary, together, united with the Holy Father himself, we must show even the doubters the way to Christ!

I need your assistance, and I thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make the International Eucharistic Congress accessible to many people.

Yours in the Eucharistic Jesus,

  
Marc Cardinal Ouellet  
Archbishop of Quebec  
Primate of Canada  
President, 49th International Eucharistic Congress



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A long overdue conversation

*Leadership, action needed to eliminate poverty, racism*

I think it is a "must read." I am referring to the eye-opening 22-page document on connections between racism and poverty released in January by Catholic Charities USA entitled "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good."

The statement — available at [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/povertyandracismpaper](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/povertyandracismpaper), under "Poverty in America" — calls for a "long overdue conversation" about how racism contributes to poverty.

Catholic Charities USA wants to cut poverty in America in half by the year 2020 — a pretty ambitious goal it says cannot be addressed responsibly without considering the impact of racism.

Many believe racism, with some isolated and tragic exceptions, "is a matter of the past," the document says, adding, "at best, this thinking is naive. At worst, it is a delusion and an evasion of reality," for "racism has never been solely or principally about insults, slurs or exclusions. ... Racism today remains what it has always been: a defense of racial privilege" which operates outside of conscious awareness.

The document uses the term "white privilege" to describe "the network of racially conferred advantages" that benefit white Americans.

It also points out that "white privilege shifts the focus from how people of color are harmed by racism to how white Americans derive advantages because of it," even if those advantages are undesired by individual white Americans, legions of whom are at the forefront of calls for racial justice.

Yet the document doesn't just flaunt "white privilege" accusatorily; it gives audacious court rulings and shameful congressional legislation down through the ages that favored whites economically, leading to a "disproportionate impact of poverty upon groups of color today."

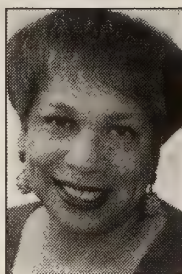
The document also gives several remedial public policy proposals advocated in Catholic Charities' 2006 policy paper "Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good."

Over the years the U.S. bishops collectively and individually have issued pastoral letters that are timeless in their articulation of the sin of racism and call to repentance.

What is needed now is implementation of measures that begin with changing public policy and praying for God to speak to hearts and

### Bridging Gaps

CAROLE NORRIS GREENE  
CNS COLUMNIST



transform shattered lives.

There is a rightness to Catholic Charities USA taking the lead on this one.

Like those first deacons who assisted with the charitable work of the early church, the mega-charity has stepped forward along with hundreds of thousands of supporters and some heavyweight partners — Bread for the World, the Catholic Health Association of the United States and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to name a few — to heed the bishops' call.

With over 1,700 local agencies and institutions across America that deal with the poor daily, Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Va., is uniquely positioned to begin a national dialogue on racism and poverty, according to its president, Father Larry Snyder.

He credits Father Bryan Massingale, an associate professor of theology at Marquette University, for drafting the core of the document.

"Poverty and Racism" acknowledges that its material and any ensuing discussion "is not an easy conversation, one that many of us might like to avoid" precisely because it "may evoke a range of emotions in us that may cause us to be very uncomfortable," to experience "anger, sadness, guilt or denial."

But talk, we must, it adamantly contends, "because the privileges of some are obtained at the expense of others. ... Because the prophets of the Gospels remind us that we are given to each other's care, and the measure of our response to the least among us is the measure of our response to God."

"People said cutting poverty in half by 2020 can't be done," explained Precious Blood Father Clarence Williams, Catholic Charities USA's senior director of racial equality and diversity initiatives.

"But then different groups decided that they would become involved. Where there is leadership, people will act," he said.

## Mission discipleship brings core values to politics

It's a word they may not choose to use, but nonetheless many bishops of the Americas — the United States, Canada and Latin America — who met last month on Long Island, N.Y., were involved with "branding." Branding is a marketing term used to describe a core set of values that allow a product to be identified in the marketplace.

It was the 35th meeting of this hemisphere's bishops. Although it was not a decision-making session, there was agreement among the participants that bishops must lead "pastoral conversion" to help people live a life of discipleship and mission — to form missionary discipleship.

Pastoral conversion "is a very serious matter that calls for a fundamental re-examination of one's heart and the faith, and we don't do that easily," said Archbishop James Weisgerber, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops president.

The core values — common good, subsidiarity, dignity of the human person, reverence for human life — by which Catholics should be identified in the public arena are increasingly important as the silly season of this interminable presidential election campaign is upon us.

Mission discipleship means becoming involved, knowing well what the faith teaches. This presumes knowledge by Catholics. This was the subject of a February seminar at Fairfield University dealing with how issues, values and media affect elections.

"All Catholics have a responsibility to vote and engage in the political process," said Jesuit Father Richard Ryscavage, director of Center for Faith and Public

Extra!  
Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



Life. "You cannot separate private spirituality from public responsibility for the common good of society. The role of the church is to teach the fundamental moral principals that apply."

As the field of political candidates narrows, the stage of attracting "the Catholic vote" begins. Catholics are not an affinity group to be wooed by visuals of politicians touring parochial schools or dining with prelates at banquets. Candidates must impress Catholics by their adherence to the moral principles we hold.

The bishops' responsibility is to teach, following Christ's dictate to teach, Father Ryscavage said, while the laity's role is to become involved in politics.

Kentucky's bishops described this role well in a recent pastoral: Bishops are "to provide the moral analysis of the major issues confronting society." Given those tools, the responsibility is to measure candidates against those standards.

Bishops are similar to coaches as they teach, guide and encourage, and then stay on the sidelines as the missionary disciples, armed with a deep understanding of core values, take to the field.

## Holy Thursday: A memory lane to remember, inspire

*The Last Supper connects us with our past and future*

The Eucharist is a like a memorial or "memory lane banquet." We remember and re-enact what happened 21 centuries ago during the Last Supper.

The Eucharist makes sense when it becomes part of our lives and our history; the history of the past becomes the story of the present. The Eucharist must also be understood in terms of humility and service, which becomes action. The difficulty in this century is not in understanding Jesus' teaching, but in following Jesus. There is a world of difference between talking about love and putting love into action, between making an efficient plan of service and actually serving others.

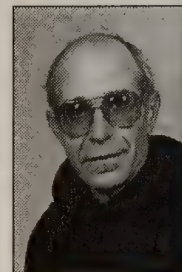
The primitive church linked baptism with the Eucharist through the washing of the feet — as the water cleanses our feet from dust and sweat, so in baptism it cleanses our soul from the original sin.

Just as Christ broke the bread that night, the Eucharist shows us that we are all broken bread; yet we are valuable bread crumbs because together we form the Body of Christ.

During that Last Supper, Christ performed the greatest miracle by changing the bread into his body, the wine into his blood. This miracle happened for

Guest  
Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN  
C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



the first time 21 centuries ago, and it continues to happen every day, every time the priest celebrates Mass.

And every Holy Thursday, we hold in our hands our past, our present and our future.

We know that the Eucharist does not complete the work of redemption without the cross on Good Friday and the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Even the resurrection does not end the work of our redemption — it simply begins the process. Our redemption is "unfinished business."

Our redemption is our challenge — to continue what Christ began. It's time for us to get to work. Happy Easter!

Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.



# A happy death

*It is comforting to be recognized as a person when dying*

My Aunt Pat died recently. She was a few days short of her 91st birthday.

A lot can be said about her long and satisfying life, but it is her dying that I want to focus on. Her death reminds us of how important a presence the church can be in our living and dying.

The first thing to note about her death is that she was fortunate to be visited by a priest. I anointed her twice. It helps to have a priest in the family.

Two days before Aunt Pat died I got a call from my cousin Mike. He asked me to go anoint his mother and pray with her. In the phrase of my generation, he asked me to "give her the last rites."

Today it is nearly impossible to be sure that every Catholic is seen by a priest. There just aren't enough priests.

In some dioceses in the Midwest more than half of the parishes have no resident priest. In my own experience, I probably anoint three or four people per week, sometimes more.

I have a nursing home and a hospital in the boundaries of the parish. I have 3,000 parishioners. I can't be present to every person.

The second thing to note is that people wait too long to call the priest. Often they wait until the person is unconscious or even dead.

Sacraments are for the living, not the dead.

The "last rites" include confession, communion and the anointing of the sick. Two of these "rites" require consciousness.

I was glad that my aunt was still able to appreciate what we were doing. While she could not swallow, at least we could touch the Eucharist to her tongue.

She was also able to pray along with us. When we made the sign of the cross, she followed. She joined hands and said the Lord's Prayer with us.

She held out her hands for the sacrament of the sick. She knew she was dying. She accepted it stoically, but she wanted the sacraments.

The third thing about my aunt's death is that she was surrounded by those who love her as she went to God. Often this is not the case.

I was also glad that we had enough notice to allow me time to pick up Aunt Pat's sister, my mother. Mom is nearly 88. These two old women needed to see each other before death separated them.

After all, they had nine decades of shared life. Only they could bring and receive the comfort of a lifetime to each other.

Catholics pray to St. Joseph for a happy death. By that we mean that we should die in a state of grace surrounded by those who love us.

My aunt had a happy death.

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



But many do not.

Often people die alone. Recently I was called to the bed of a woman in a nursing home. She was alone. No family members visited her. She spoke only Polish.

The staff told me that she was noncommunicative. But I suspected that she was dehydrated. So I took a straw and put a few drops on her tongue.

She moved. I put more drops on her tongue. She swallowed. Then she spoke weakly.

I started the prayers. She made the sign of the cross. She was not noncommunicative. She was ignored.

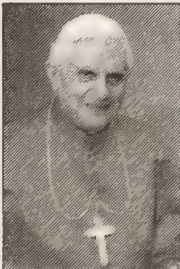
It is a great comfort to be recognized as a person when we are dying. We have a history. We have a faith.

It should be honored, so as many as possible can die a happy death.

# Pope discusses important papal legacy of St. Leo the Great

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The pope's roles as a teacher and preacher, as a promoter of peace and as the chief servant of Christian unity are seen clearly in the life and work of St. Leo the Great, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The saint, who served as Pope Leo I from 440 to 461, was "one of the greatest popes that ever honored the Roman see, contributing much to reinforcing its authority and prestige," Pope Benedict said.

The pope spoke about St. Leo during his March 5 general audience at the Vatican.

He said that the earliest examples of papal homilies and preaching that exist today are from St. Leo, and they give a picture of a pope "who gathered the people around him."

*Here is the Vatican text of the Pope Benedict's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Fathers of the Church, we turn to St. Leo the Great, one of the most influential popes in history.

He was born in Tuscany and became bishop of Rome in 440 during times of severe social unrest. Since the Roman emperor's authority had practically disappeared in the West, and Italy was suffering from frequent barbarian incursions, Pope Leo took it upon himself to protect Rome.

His courageous meeting in Mantua with Attila the Hun, whom he convinced to desist from his plans to devastate the city, is the most well known, but not the only event of its kind.

Pope Leo promoted the primacy of the bishop of Rome as the successor of the Apostle Peter, and exercised this ministry in the East and the West with great prudence, pastoral sensitivity and wisdom.

The bishops attending the important Council of Chalcedon in 451 acclaimed the text he sent concerning faith in Jesus, true God and true man, with the words: "Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo."

Thanks to Pope Leo's sermons and letters, we can still appreciate his zeal and charity as pastor of the church, and his theological depth and clarity.

He also shares with us his profound understanding of the liturgy, where he sees the mysteries of salvation as present to our time and influential in our everyday realities.

May the life and example of Pope St. Leo always remind us that the encounter with God in Christ is the source of our joy and our salvation!

# The line between trust and neglect

*When parents, teens work together, good things happen*

Several Saturdays ago I spent a few hours with about 60 high school boys and girls and their parents listening to them talk about better parent-teen communication regarding sex, alcohol and drugs.

The question for parents that kept popping into my mind was: "Where does trust end and neglect begin?"

The teenagers want to be trusted. The parents want to trust. But parental unease surfaces as the potential for parental neglect in the face of possibly unwise and risky teenage behavior rises.

Where do you draw the line between trust and neglect? Surely, no parent wants to be guilty of neglect, just as all parents want to trust their offspring.

The question provides a nice framework for great conversations if both parents and teenagers are willing to talk. Doing it in groups with other parents and teens seems to improve the acoustics for the desired exchange.

The conversation, as I heard it, turned on issues of (1) curfew, (2) driving — who's in the car? who's at the wheel? where are you going?, (3) friends — who do you hang out with?, (4) honesty, (5) pregnancy, (6) the Internet and (7) trust.

In families, the participants seemed to agree, there is a need for "consistency" and there has to be agreement on the "irreversibles" in the ongoing discussions about "boundaries."

Communication is, of course, at the heart of dealing with these issues. The teens have to be permitted to speak up openly about what they perceive to be double standards (e.g., some parents drink and drive).

Parents have to explain their "need to verify" (e.g., call the parents of a teen who is hosting the party).

Expert facilitators were on hand to provide technical information on drugs and alcohol. It was helpful to dig a bit for answers to the question of why kids drink: To have fun? Try to cope? Or just see what it's like? Similarly with drugs.

Notably absent from the conversation was any reference to religion, although all four of the schools represented were Catholic. Nor was much said about the need to establish baseline respect for human dignity.

That would cover respect for self as well as others as a bedrock principle of right, fair and just behavior.

I also noticed that no one suggested the value of service projects in getting teens "out of themselves" and into growth-producing character development. Not that the participants were unaware of this; they just didn't bring it up.

No mention was made of shared work, parents and teens working together on meaningful projects. That used to happen a generation or two ago when it was not uncommon for a small-scale

## Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



family business to provide Saturday and summer employment for the kids.

Those opportunities produced for the young a lot more than spending money.

And it is worth noting that the school that hosted the gathering and the other three that participated had very little to do with the design, promotion and provision of the program.

This was the work of one mother whose children are all grown with families of their own. She decided that it would be useful and just went ahead and put it all together.

It would be too facile to say that anyone could do it.

But it is not wide of the mark to suggest that this intergenerational exchange of experience and information could be happening on a much larger scale if more good people step up and decide to make it happen.





CNS PHOTO BY ISAAC URRUTIA, REUTERS

A Venezuelan soldier sits on an armored vehicle in Paraguaipoa, Venezuela, March 3. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez moved troops to the border of Colombia March 1 after Colombia bombed and sent troops inside Ecuador to kill leftist rebels.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

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(704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

"In some parts, people are afraid ... of reprisals."

## Conflict in Colombia

*Archbishop says Chavez boosts tensions with Colombia by moving troops*

BY MIKE CEASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOGOTA, Colombia — A Venezuelan archbishop criticized Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for escalating tensions after Colombian soldiers killed guerrillas on Ecuadorean soil.

Chavez "cannot carry the country into an armed conflict just because he feels like it," said Archbishop Roberto Luckert Leon of Coro, whose remarks were reported by Colombian media.

"He has to consult with the country," said the archbishop.

Archbishop Luckert, vice president of the Venezuelan bishops' conference, criticized Chavez for moving troops to the border of Colombia after the March 1 incident.

He said Chavez, who has clashed repeatedly with the Catholic Church leadership, was "exacerbating Venezuelan nationalism over a confrontation which is not our own."

The Colombian military killed Luis Devia Silva, known as Raul Reyes, the second in command of Colombia's largest guerrilla group, together with 16 other guerrillas.

It was the Colombian military's hardest blow against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which has fought for more than four decades to overthrow Colombia's elected governments.

The Colombian military said it attacked the guerrilla camp with missiles launched from Colombian airspace, and that afterward soldiers crossed the border to retrieve some of the bodies, as well as computers and other evidence.

The Colombians' entry into Ecuadorean territory triggered angry responses from Ecuador and Venezuela; both ordered troops to the border and withdrew their ambassadors from Colombia.

Reached by telephone in the Colombian province of Putumayo, near the border with Ecuador, Father Julio Cesar Urbano said things were calm, but tense.

"In some parts, people are afraid ... of reprisals from one side or the other," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Colombian bishops' conference said she expected a statement on the situation March 5, when a regional meeting of the presidents of the bishops' conferences was to begin.

Political observers speculated that the guerrilla leader's killing could complicate efforts to negotiate the freedom of some of the hundreds of hostages held by the guerrillas.

The Catholic Church had acted as a mediator between the government and guerrillas, until being marginalized by the involvement of Chavez, who is widely seen as sympathetic to the guerrillas' cause.

Others suggested that the guerrillas were near defeat.

Retired Bishop Fabian Marulanda Lopez of Florencia, secretary-general of the Colombian bishops' conference, called Reyes' death "a hard blow" for the guerrillas and said he hoped the FARC would have "a sensible reaction" and not carry out reprisals against the hostages, but instead return to negotiations.

Colombian officials said that in the computers retrieved from the guerrilla camp they discovered documents linking the Ecuadorean and Venezuelan governments with the guerrillas, as well as reports of a \$300,000 payment by the Venezuelan government to the guerrillas.

Some analysts suggested that Chavez was exploiting the episode to distract attention from domestic problems, including high inflation and the scarcity of some food staples.

Analysts also predicted that the episode would wind down, because the neighboring countries are highly dependent on each other economically.

For example, Archbishop Luckert pointed out that most agricultural workers in Venezuela's Zulia state are Colombians, and that if they returned home farming "would become paralyzed."

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## Perspectives

The multi-faceted challenges of poverty; Are children punished for parents' wickedness?

| PAGES 14-15

# To focus on Jesus with a humble heart

Youths, young adults gather for prayer, reflection at Abbey

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

BELMONT — Humility is an essential part of eucharistic adoration and Lent is an ideal time to focus on the Lord, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"It is wonderful to have this opportunity with the Lord," said Bishop Jugis to young Catholics from across the Diocese of Charlotte.

The bishop was one of the speakers during the diocese's fourth annual Lenten spiritual pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey for youths and young adults March 9.

The approximately 300 participants included youths from middle and high schools and colleges across the diocese, as well as youth ministers, other adults, diocesan priests and deacons, women religious



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament in the Abbey Basilica in Belmont during the Lenten spiritual pilgrimage for youths and young adults March 9. Also pictured: Deacon Art Kingsley and Father John Putnam.

See PILGRIMS, page 9

## Keeping the cold at bay

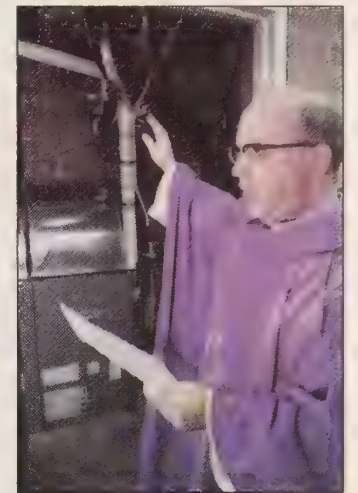


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee, blesses the church's new furnace March 9. The new heating system allows wintertime Masses to be celebrated in the church for the first time in 20 years.

For the story, see page 5.

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

### National abuse audit and survey find soaring costs, fewer allegations

Diocese of Charlotte costs remain low

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The costs to the national Catholic Church for legal settlements in abuse cases, therapy for victims of sexual abuse, support for offenders and legal fees soared to more than \$600 million in 2007, the fourth year of reporting on the handling of

See SURVEY, page 13



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Msgr. Mauricio W. West are pictured with members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at the 75th anniversary celebration of Court Charlotte at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte March 8.

## Catholicism, charity and camaraderie

Catholic Daughters Court Charlotte celebrates 75 years

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The Court Charlotte chapter of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas gathered to celebrate the court's 75th anniversary at the diocesan Pastoral Center March 8.

Mass was celebrated by

Court Charlotte chaplain, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, followed by a reception and the induction of five new members.

Representatives from courts

See COURT, page 8

## 'Becoming disciples'

Catechists explore new curriculum for students

| PAGE 4

## Culture Watch

Church fights Mass card abuse; Sheen honored

| PAGES 10-11

## Little girl, big gift

Generosity benefits women, children

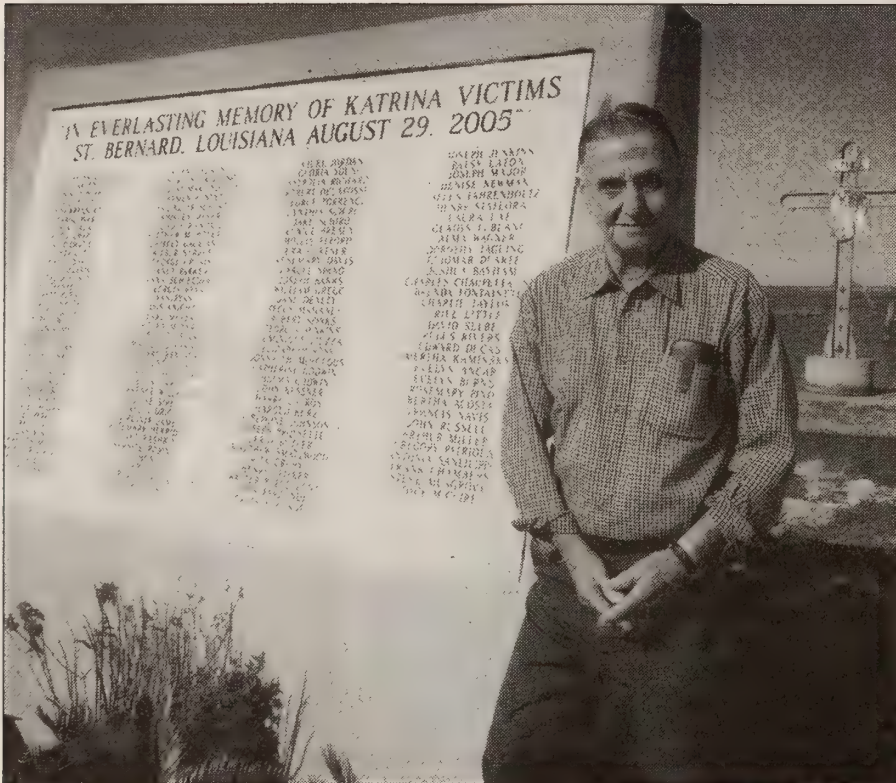
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## A LITTLE MISTAKE



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK J. METHE, CLARION HERALD

Uriel Little, a former member of St. Louise de Marillac Parish in Arabi, La., stands next to a Katrina memorial in Shell Beach, La., dedicated to the 137 residents of St. Bernard Parish, a civil entity, who perished during the 2005 storm. Little, who was evacuated to Texas two days before the storm, was presumed dead and his name is inscribed on the memorial.

## Man thought to have perished in Katrina is alive and kicking

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — First, the good news. Uriel Little, 76, is alive and kicking.

What has Little scratching his head these days — two and a half years after he was evacuated from St. Bernard Manor before Hurricane Katrina hit — is a stately stone monument erected Aug. 29, 2007, by St. Bernard Parish, a civil entity, to honor the 137 St. Bernard residents who perished during the storm.

The name "URIEL LITTLE" is chiseled into the stone.

Displaying his wry sense of humor, Little said it just isn't so.

Little, a former member of St. Louise de Marillac Church in Arabi, was evacuated to Texas two days before the storm.

He spent many months at apartments operated by Christopher Homes, the New Orleans archdiocesan housing agency, and is now living in an assisted living apartment at St. Margaret's Daughters Nursing Home in New Orleans.

How did Little feel when relatives told him about his being memorialized on the stone monument on the banks of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet at Shell Beach?

"I didn't think it was too good — but as long as it wasn't true, that's the main thing," Little said, smiling.

Little's sister, Sylvia Little Costanza, said she knew something was amiss many months after the storm when her brother's name continued to show up in local newspaper stories chronicling who had died during the storm.

She called the newspaper and even the St. Bernard Parish coroner's office to make sure they knew her brother was still alive.

"Then lo and behold, we got a call from someone that his name was on the monument," she said.

Ricky Melerine, St. Bernard councilman at large, was the councilman for the district that pushed for the erection of the monument along with a striking 13-foot-by-7-foot stainless steel cross set into the waters of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

Melerine said he was "pretty sure" the list of the deceased came from the coroner's office, and he was surprised the mistake is only now coming to light.

"As far as taking his name off, it won't be hard. I think we can go in there — with filler material — and polish it up," said Melerine.

Costanza drove Little to the monument for the first time recently, and he kept his spirits high.

"I guess I'm going to get arrested for false advertising," he said.

"You look pretty good," Costanza told her brother.

## Britain repeals act criminalizing blasphemy against Christianity

LONDON (CNS) — The criminal offense of blasphemy against Christianity has been abolished in England and Wales.

The House of Lords voted to support a government amendment to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill to scrap the act, which dates back more than 300 years.

Baroness Andrews, communities minister, told Britain's House of Lords, where the bill is in its final stages, that the 1697 Blasphemy Act was anachronistic and had "fallen into disuse."

She said legal protections guaranteed to religious believers by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 meant that the law could be "safely repealed."

"As long as this law remains on the statute book, it hinders the U.K.'s ability to challenge oppressive blasphemy laws in other jurisdictions, including those used to persecute vulnerable Christian minorities," she said during the March 5 debate. "It is not an attack on

the sacred in our society."

However, Baroness O'Cathain, a Conservative Party member, said that "abolishing the blasphemy law does not demonstrate neutrality; rather it contributes to a wider campaign for the adoption of a secular constitution, which ... would actually be hostile to religion."

She said the amendment "proposes to legalize the most intense and abusive attacks on Christ."

The Church of England announced earlier this year that it was not opposed to repeal of the blasphemy laws.

But in a Feb. 29 letter to Hazel Blears, secretary of state for communities and local government, the two most senior Anglican prelates, Archbishops Rowan Williams of Canterbury and John Sentamu of York, sought assurances that the amendment "should not be capable of interpretation as a secularizing move, or as a general license to attack or insult religious beliefs and believers."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The U.S. Army Field Band of Washington, D.C. will offer a *free performance* at Charlotte Catholic High School March 31 at 7 p.m. The Field Band's concert in Charlotte is sponsored by the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Educational Foundation and the Charlotte Catholic High School Band Parents Association. To obtain free tickets or for more information, call Stanley Michalski at (704) 541-8016.

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte *Community Blood Drive* will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., March 26. The blood drive will take place in the first floor conference room 11a.m.-2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Terri Wilhelm at (704) 370-6299 or e-mail [mwillhelm@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mwillhelm@charlottediocese.org).

CHARLOTTE — *The Compassionate Friends of Charlotte* meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. The organization is a support group for parents who have lost a child, regardless of cause of death or age of the child. The group meets at 7 p.m. in room 234. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Donna or Ralph Goodrich at (804) 882-4503 or e-mail [iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net](mailto:iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net).

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbians will be awarding the 4th annual *Gene Marie Alfaro scholarship* in memory of their sister, Gene Marie, to a graduating high school senior who will be pursuing a career in the nursing or health care field. This year, in addition to the \$1,000 scholarship, two additional \$500 awards will be given. The application needs to be submitted no later than April 7, 2008. If interested, please call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Blanketeers of Holy Spirit Church*, 537 N. Hwy. 16, hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at Debra Mattison's house, 4 Brook Meadows Lane, 7 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jebkraft@juno.com](mailto:jebkraft@juno.com).

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit [www.catholicscripturestudy.com](http://www.catholicscripturestudy.com) for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: Social effects of sin greater than ever

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In today's globalized culture, the social effects of sin are greater than ever before and deserve the church's urgent attention, a Vatican official said.

New forms of sin have arisen in the area of biotechnology, economics and ecology, and many involve questions of individual rights and wider social effects, said Bishop Gianfranco Girotti.

Bishop Girotti is an official of the Apostolic Penitentiary, an office that deals with questions relating to penance and indulgences. He made the comments in an interview March 8.

Bishop Girotti said the sense of sin in today's world should be even more acute than before, since the effects of sin are often widespread.

"If yesterday's sin had a rather individualistic dimension, today it has an impact and resonance that is above all social, because of the great phenomenon of globalization," he said. "In effect, attention to sin is a more urgent task today, precisely because its

consequences are more abundant and more destructive."

Among the "new sins" he said were genetic experiments and manipulation that violate fundamental human rights and produce effects difficult to foresee and control.

Other areas where sin has a social impact include drug abuse; economic injustice, which has left the poor even poorer and the rich richer; and environmental irresponsibility.

Bishop Girotti was asked about sin among the church's own members, a reference to priestly sex abuse.

"One cannot underrate the objective seriousness of a series of acts that have recently been reported and that carry with them the signs of the church's human and institutional fragility," he said. But he said it should also be recognized that the church reacted to these reports and is continuing to do so, with "rigorous interventions and initiatives" aimed at protecting the church's good name and the people of God.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A solemn celebration of *Divine Mercy Sunday* will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. on March 30. All are invited to come for a Divine Mercy holy hour and Benediction at 3:30 p.m. For more information, please call Melissa Miller at (336) 274-6520, ext. 310.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

HICKORY — A *Catholic Scripture Study* facilitated by Dr. Peter Miller is held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. on Wednesday nights from 6:45-8:45 p.m. in the lower level. This Bible study program consists of small group discussions followed by a lecture on a particular segment of the Scriptures. This is an adult program; however high school youth are welcome and encouraged to join. This year, the group is studying the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

HAYESVILLE — The diocesan Office of Economic

Opportunity will sponsor a *Financial Fitness Fair* at the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville March 17. The workshop's focus will be on retirement. Stop by to receive information on restoring credit, debt reduction and filing taxes. The event will run 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more information, call Claudie Burchfield at (828) 835-3535.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Let the "Why Catholic?" program deepen your understanding of the Mass and sacraments through small group meetings weekly during Lent — 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. on Sundays — at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr. To register, call Dick or Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

SYLVA — *Divine Mercy Sunday* will be celebrated 3-4 p.m. at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. March 30. All are invited to come for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. All are invited to come for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — In recognition of *Divine Mercy Sunday*, Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will hold a number of prayer events on Sunday, March 30. Eucharistic adoration will be held at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. and Benediction at 4:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend any or all of the events. For more information, call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 22 (7:45 p.m.)  
Easter Vigil Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 23 (11 a.m.)  
Easter Sunday Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Episcopal calendar

March 20 (7:30 p.m.)  
Holy Thursday Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 21 (7:30 p.m.)  
Good Friday veneration of the cross  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Vatican official concerned about Catholic-Orthodox document on church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said he had concerns about a recent Catholic-Orthodox document on the nature of the church.

Archbishop Angelo Amato said the document of the international Catholic-Orthodox dialogue commission appeared to rely too heavily on Orthodox terminology and did not give enough emphasis to the Catholic position that the jurisdictional primacy of the pope is an essential part of the structure and nature of the church.

"One cannot give a precise theological identity of the universal church without referring to the pope's primacy of jurisdiction," the archbishop said March 8. "Primacy is not an optional addition, but is an essential element."

The document, "Ecclesiological and Canonical Consequences of the Sacramental Nature of the Church: Ecclesial Communion, Conciliarity and Authority," was finalized by the dialogue commission when it met in October in Ravenna, Italy.

When it was published, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, coordinator of the Catholic side of the dialogue, said, "The document represents the outcome of the work of a commission and should not be understood as an official declaration of

the church's teaching."

Joint statements from the ecumenical dialogues in which the Catholic Church engages routinely are sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for review and comment.

Addressing the statements made by Archbishop Amato, Msgr. Eleuterio Fortino, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said the document itself explained that it was just "the first document on the subject" and that the question of papal primacy would be studied in the next round of Catholic-Orthodox talks.

And, the monsignor said, the archbishop's assertion that the language used in the document was "closer to the Orthodox ecclesiological tradition than to the Catholic" was "not exact."

Archbishop Amato said he saw an overreliance on Orthodox terms "where, for example, it speaks of synodality instead of collegiality." But, Msgr. Fortino said the document begins by explaining that "the two terms are synonymous."

Seeking agreement that would lead to full unity between Catholics and Orthodox, the dialogue commission's document tried to explain how communion and authority are expressed and exercised on local, regional and universal levels within the one church of Christ.

Mass on the mountaintop



CNS PHOTO BY NIKOLA SOLIC, REUTERS

Roman Catholic priests lead pilgrims in prayer during a Lenten pilgrimage to the summit of Srdj Mountain near Croatia's popular Adriatic destination of Dubrovnik March 9.

Pope establishes new diocese in Puerto Rico

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established the Diocese of Fajardo-Humacao, Puerto Rico, and named Father Eusebio Ramos Morales to be its first bishop.

The new diocese, the sixth in Puerto Rico, was announced March 11 with territory taken from the Archdiocese of San Juan and the Diocese of Caguas.

Bishop-designate Ramos was born in Maunabo Dec. 15, 1952. He studied philosophy and theology at Bayamon Central University in Puerto Rico and at

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla. He also earned a degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

According to the Vatican, 293,000 people live in the new diocese and almost 98,000 of them are Catholic. There are 21 parishes in the diocese, served by 17 diocesan priests and five priests belonging to religious orders. There are three seminarians, 21 permanent deacons and religious women from five different orders working in the new diocese.



# 'Becoming disciples'

*Catechists explore new curriculum for youths*

HICKORY — Parish catechetical leaders recently learned about nurturing disciples during a curriculum development workshop.

Approximately 35 people attended "Becoming Disciples: A Curriculum for Elementary and Middle School Catechesis" at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 6.

The workshop was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation.

"The idea behind the workshop was to present and explain a curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade based on the six tasks of catechesis contained in the General Directory for Catechesis issued by the Vatican," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation programs.

The six tasks are knowledge of the faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life and missionary initiation.

Attendees reviewed information from "Becoming Disciples," a curriculum utilized for elementary and middle school catechesis in the Diocese of

Wilmington, Del.

The presenters were Sister Sally Russell, a Sister of St. Joseph, and Sister Elaine McCarron, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth.

Sister Russell is assistant director of religious education for the Diocese of Wilmington. Sister McCarron has served as a representative for catechesis and multicultural concerns in the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Education.

"In this current presentation of our ancient, ever-new faith, Sister Sally and Sister Elaine reinforced the words of the General Directory of Catechesis," said Villapando.



The faith formation office is a ministry supported by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

## Confirmation chefs



COURTESY PHOTO

Confirmation class students at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem and their teacher, Jerry Galiger (center) are pictured while making dinner for residents of Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem Feb. 9.

The class, which includes teenagers from Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, made a Latin-American-themed dinner for the families of pediatric patients staying at the facility. Galiger's previous classes also have made dinners for Ronald McDonald House residents.

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and the Eucharist, in the Catholic Church.



COURTESY PHOTO

Doni Juarez (left), a parish catechetical leader at Good Shepherd Church in King, and Marie Kinney, a parish catechetical leader at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, consult with Sister Elaine McCarron and Sister Sally Russell during a curriculum development workshop at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 26.

## Running and raising funds



COURTESY PHOTO

Runners take part in the 20th annual Shamrock Run, Walk & Tots Trot sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville March 8. More than 300 runners from throughout North Carolina participated in the event, which featured a 5K run and fitness walk, a 10K run (pictured above) and a "Tots Trot" for children. A portion of the funds raised was donated to Davie County Domestic Violence Services & Rape Crisis Center.

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## SENIORS' SPRING FLING

Sponsored by CSS Elder Ministries

**Two dates and locations  
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Thurs., April 24th - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory  
9 am to 3:30 pm:

Closing Mass with Father Ed Sheridan  
Registration deadline: April 15th

Thurs., May 1st - St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte  
9:30 am to 3:45 pm:

Closing Mass with Father Frank O'Rourke  
Registration deadline: April 22nd

Your day will be filled with live entertainment,  
fellowship, Mass, lunch with friends, chair massages,  
yoga, crafts, bingo, door prizes and more!

Call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220 or  
Sherill Beason (704) 370-3228 at Catholic Social Services.

Cost: \$12 includes lunch.  
Limited space available. Register NOW!





# Keeping the cold at bay

*New furnace warms Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission for winter Masses*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

CHEROKEE — For the first time in some 20 winters, parishioners and visitors to Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee are enjoying Sunday Mass — in the church.

Thanks to benefactors' generosity that resulted in a new furnace, Mass can be celebrated in the church year-round instead of just during warm weather.

Parishioners and visitors watched as Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor, stood in the doorway of the furnace room and blessed the new heating system March 9. Then everyone marched into the church to begin Mass in the pleasantly warm building.

If not for the new furnace, they would have been gathering in the parish's Kateri Center, named for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, a Mohawk Indian who is the first Native American to be considered for sainthood.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission seats 200, but cold weather froze people out.

Parishioner Jane Powers recalled that if more than 35 people were present for

"It's wonderful. I've been coming here for 27 years and have been a parishioner for six years. I've been waiting for this."

— Jane Powell

Mass in the winter, the crowd overflowed the Kateri Center, with worshipers standing in the narrow hall that separates the center from the church.

"It's wonderful," Powers said of the new heating system.

"I've been coming here for 27 years and have been a parishioner for six years. I've been waiting for this," she said.

"We tried to have a Christmas vigil Mass here four years ago and it was just too cold. It was Christmas Eve and people were huddled in the hallway," Powell said.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission is built in the shape of a seven-sided Cherokee council house, such as were common in Cherokee villages prior to the forced removal of the Cherokee people in 1838.

The ceiling slopes down from a height of 40 feet at its center to 15-18 feet around the church's sides.

The church's previous inefficient system couldn't produce enough heat to warm the church, even after ceiling fans were installed a few years ago to pull heat back down from the ceiling in winter and to cool the church in the summer.

During summers, the church is often packed with parishioners and tourists. In earlier years, the Kateri Center could hold the small number of people who attended Sunday Mass in winter.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Altar server Harmer Weichel and Father Shawn O'Neal process out at the end of the first wintertime Mass in Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission March 9, the first in more than 20 years.

"We have only about 30 families who are parishioners, and 10 of them are seasonal," Father O'Neal said. "This is fewer than 15 to 20 years ago when more parishioners worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

However, with the casino and with more tourists visiting Cherokee in cold weather, the Kateri Center's capacity couldn't always handle increased Mass attendance.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission's parish council decided it was time for better heating.

"We started getting bids from different companies," Father O'Neal said. "I just happened to mention to a friend of mine (Janet Coffey) in Mint Hill that we were looking for a new heating system. She said, 'Oh, you ought to talk to my stepdad; he's involved with that.'"

Coffey's stepdad, Frank Ciucevich, a parishioner at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, has considerable experience in analyzing bids in his work with a general and mechanical contractor company.

Ciucevich recommended several firms in the Cherokee area that would give the parish what it needed and at the best price.

Ciucevich "looked at the bids and talked to the companies involved, and parishioners did too, so that everyone stayed involved and informed," Father O'Neal said.

As the March 9 Mass concluded, Father O'Neal gave thanks for everyone's generosity — parishioners, other members of the local community and seasonal visitors.

Many of the benefactors were relatives of one parishioner, 88-year-old Myrtle LaShomb, a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee who died last December.

Contributions totaled about \$7,300, of which \$6,500 paid for the furnace, installation, electrical work and modifications to the propane system.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

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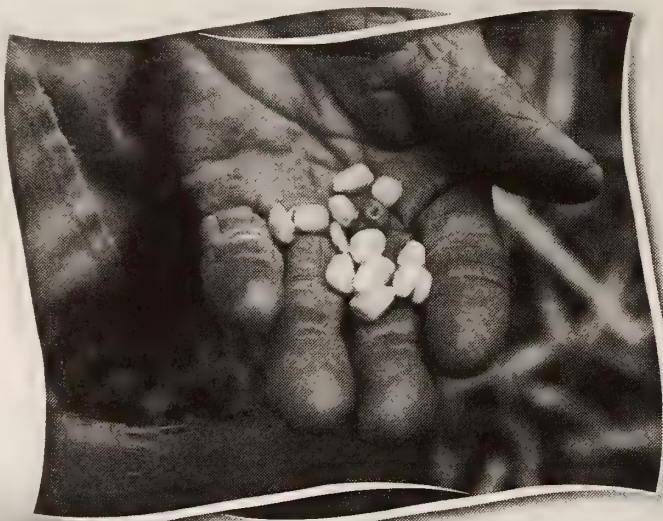
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# Cries of hunger

**I**n the steep, remote mountains of Guatemala, hunger is all too common.

Subsistence farmers have been devastated by drought, poor harvests and other factors beyond their control. Sadly, the widespread hunger's greatest toll is on children.



For many little ones, malnutrition has become a chilling adversary that threatens their young lives. They currently exist on a meager diet consisting mainly of corn, but this is not enough to sustain their frail bodies. Many of these young ones are in danger of starvation.

Guatemala has the highest child malnutrition rate in Latin America. Almost half of the children under age 5 are chronically malnourished, and many young ones in remote areas have died from starvation. Local doctors in the region worry that even more children will die if they don't receive food.

"I'm frustrated because I want to help, but I have no food to give them. We don't have the resources," said Dr. Marco Gutiérrez, director of a Guatemalan health program.

***"...the children beg for bread, but no one gives it to them."***  
(Lamentations 4:4b, NIV)

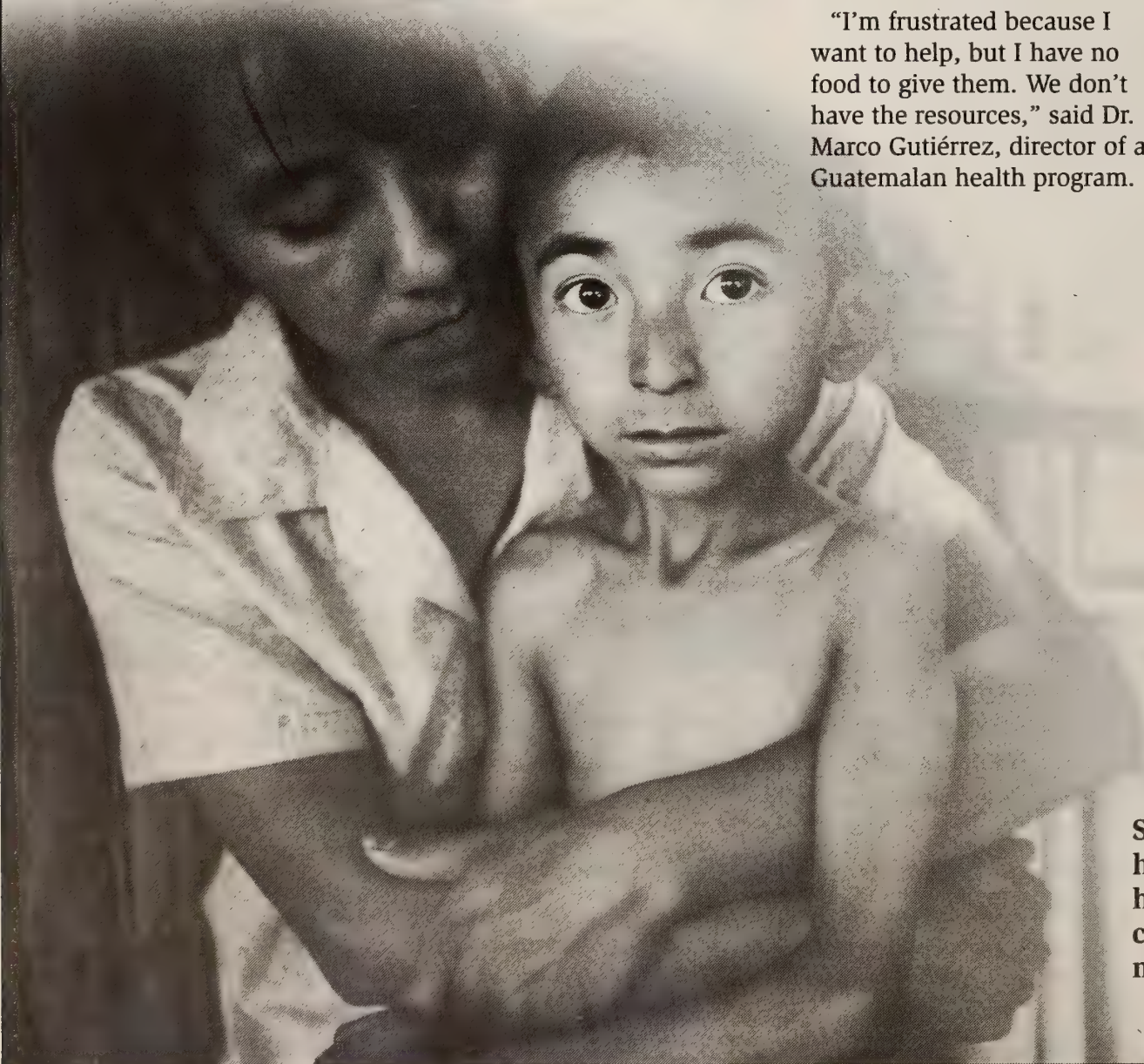
Throughout Guatemala, starvation threatens the lives of thousands of innocent children. These children are in critical need of your help.

Even though the situation is grim, one mother's steadfast faith sustains her — even after she helplessly watched her son perish from starvation. Santos Gutiérrez' 6-year-old son died from malnutrition. Guillermo fought bravely until the very end and kept saying that he did not want to leave his little brother. As they buried the young boy, his mother begged her pastor, "Please help us; we do not want this to happen to our other children."

Despite such a tragedy, Guillermo's mother still has hope in God's goodness. Santos has faith that Guillermo's siblings — Carmen, 4, and Edelce, 3 — will live.

If she finds food, Santos gives it to her children and goes hungry herself. "But there are times when there is no food for anyone," she says. "We know God is the one who leads us, and this is why we're still alive. I ask God to give me patience and to give me something for the children."

**Santos Gutiérrez clutches her son weeks before his death, caused by complications of chronic malnutrition.**





# in Guatemala

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Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor works to end the suffering of the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America. Not only do we provide food for the starving, but we also build small houses for the destitute, dig water wells for parched villagers, provide medicine and medical equipment for the sick and elderly, support orphanages and education for children, and much more. Fundraising and other administrative

**You can help ease the pain and suffering of innocent, hungry children.**

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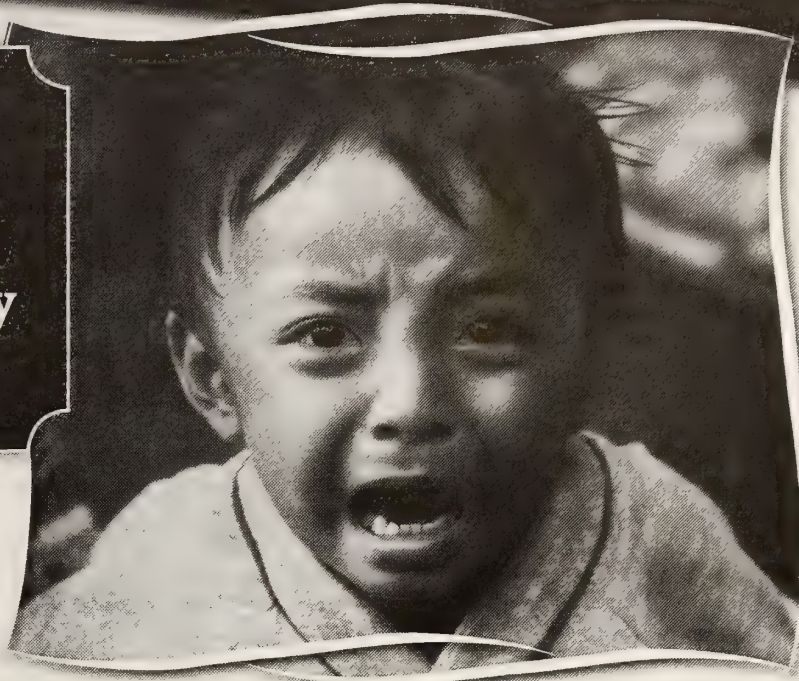
We partner with local churches, missionaries and other ministries to serve our poorest brothers and sisters efficiently and effectively. Our mission is to connect the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that benefits both. We invite and encourage you to partner with us in this mission.

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death. You have the power to bring a grateful smile to a mother's face and save a precious life through your gift for food today.

Please remember to pray for all innocent children who face the agony of constant hunger. They desperately need our prayers and support.



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At Food For The Poor, we believe that by serving our hungry brothers and sisters we serve our Lord. But we need your help in feeding the poor.

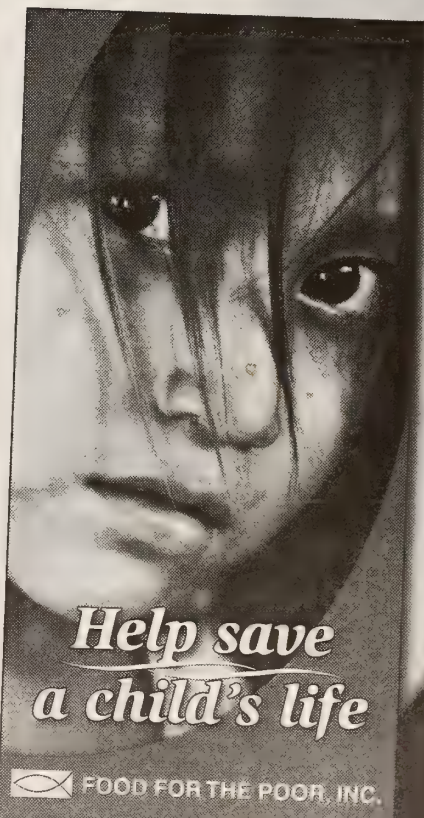
Because we acquire and ship food items in bulk, we are able to feed a child for an entire month for only \$3. Your gift of just \$45 will feed 15 children, and \$81 will feed 27 children who are on the brink of starvation.

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FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.



# Catholic Daughters court celebrates 75 years

COURT, from page 1

in Durham, Jacksonville, Greensboro and Statesville attended the event.

Essie Walker, Court Charlotte regent, said one of the best parts of being a Catholic Daughter is the camaraderie with other members.

"I've learned from the older members in the court. I've become more spiritual and I've learned more about my Catholic faith by being a Catholic Daughter," said Walker.

The organization is open to Catholic lay and religious women, 18 years or older, who love and support the church.

Ruth Carlisle, longtime member and past national director, was presented with an apostolic blessing in honor of her commitment to the Catholic Daughters.

Carlisle spoke fondly of her years as a Catholic Daughter, and credited unity and charity as the values that bond the group.

"We reach out to one another," she said.

They also reach out to the community. Court Charlotte's most significant charitable contribution is their support of A Child's Place, a collaborative effort between the Charlotte community and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools that aims to provide stable and appropriate education to homeless students.

The Catholic Daughters donate food and school supplies to the organization.

They also contribute to national Catholic Daughter charities.

"I've become more spiritual ... by being a Catholic Daughter."

— Essie Walker

"We're a very giving group," said Walker.

Founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus in Utica, N.Y., the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is one of the largest organizations of Catholic women in the world. It is made up of Catholic lay and religious women who show their love and support of the church through participation in social and charitable activities.

Court Charlotte was instituted on March 29, 1933. Over the past 75 years, they have been instrumental in supporting the church. Some of their most notable efforts include hosting ordination receptions; contributing to the seminarian fund; supporting Holy Angels, a facility for adults and children with mental retardation in Belmont; and assisting the Knights of Columbus in their various ministries.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who attended the event, thanked them for their years of service and called the organization "a witness to Christ and to the faith."

"As the current bishop of Charlotte, I am very grateful for the long history that you've had in helping the church to grow in North Carolina," he told them.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Ruth Carlisle (center) receives her apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI during the 75th anniversary celebration of the Court Charlotte Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Also pictured are Essie Walker, Court Charlotte regent, and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, Court Charlotte chaplain.

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Rev. Robert Conway  
*Parochial Vicar*

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero  
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Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina  
*Deacon*

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

#### Tuesday of Holy Week, March 18, 10 a.m.

Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils  
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

#### Easter Sunday Masses

8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,  
11 a.m., Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant  
12:30 p.m.

#### Holy Thursday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

#### Good Friday, March 21, 3 p.m.

Stations of the Cross for children

#### Good Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Veneration of the Cross  
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

#### Easter Vigil Mass, March 22, 7:45 p.m.

Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant



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## FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance in a eucharistic procession during a Lenten spiritual pilgrimage for youths and young adults at Belmont Abbey College March 9.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Participants applaud the student musicians performing during a Lenten spiritual pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College March 9.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari talks to the approximately 300 youths and young adults at the Lenten spiritual pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College March 9.

## Youths, young adults gather for prayer, reflection

PILGRIMS, from page 1

and monks from Belmont Abbey.

"The world of today teaches us to adore ourselves, our own egos, what we want to be fulfilled," said Bishop Jugis.

"But we know by faith that we are to adore Jesus. In eucharistic adoration, we are adoring Jesus, and adoration of Jesus is healthy for the soul," he said.

"Humility is essential for adoration. To adore Jesus properly, it must come from a humble heart," said the bishop.

The pilgrimage, a day of prayer and reflection, was part of the diocese's preparation for the fourth diocesan Eucharistic Congress, themed "It Is Jesus Whom We Proclaim," to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3-4.

The theme, said Bishop Jugis, was inspired by St. Paul, as the fourth Eucharistic Congress will fall during a special Pauline year convoked by Pope Benedict XVI to celebrate the 2,000th year of St. Paul's birth.

"We picked a theme that relates to St. Paul and what he lived and stood for — to proclaim Christ," said Bishop Jugis.

"You, as Catholic Christians, also should proclaim Christ in your lives. Everything we do should be permeated by Christ — our actions, behavior, speech," the bishop told the youths.

But the only way to truly proclaim Christ is to know and love him, said Bishop Jugis.

"You have to open your heart to Jesus and let him guide you. Then all you do will proclaim Christ," he said.

Bishop Jugis said the pilgrimage should be seen as an opportunity to spend personal time with Jesus.

With a young person's commitments of school, homework and after-school activities, "it's a privilege you don't often get. Today is Jesus' time," said Bishop Jugis.

"In today's busy world, it (the pilgrimage) is a moment for young people to reflect on what Lent is really about," said Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College.

"It's a time to reflect on, 'Are we

doing as much as we're capable of doing?'" he said.

Thierfelder challenged the youths to recommit themselves during Lent to bring Christ's Word to others.

Adam Trufant, a Belmont Abbey College sophomore who recently spent a month in China, told the youths that their ability to openly practice their religion and adore Jesus is a blessing.

"The Catholics in China don't have the grace of adoration chapels ... their religion is regulated by the government," he said.

"I heard about villagers sneaking out in the middle of the night to visit adoration chapels ... and when they did, it was their time with Jesus, regardless of the law," said Trufant. "I realized how blessed we are to have adoration in our churches. We are so, so blessed."

Carlos Lopez, 18, and Steven Suarez, 15, both parishioners of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, said they attended the pilgrimage to deepen their faith.

"In school, my (non-Catholic) friends have questions about the rosary, priests, confession," said Steven. "I want to be able to stand up and explain it."

"This is the most influential time for young people, when they will be making choices that will direct their lives," said Jenny Ryan, director of Catholic campus ministry at Belmont Abbey College.

"This is a time to praise God, and events like this give them a good foundation for the future," she said.

"They need proper balance in their lives, between school, work and prayer," said Thierfelder. "This helps give them some of the balance they need."

"There are times when we don't always understand the miracle of Jesus before us," said Trufant to his peers. "Don't doubt in darkness. Ask Jesus for confidence in the Eucharist to bring about a more beautiful world."

### WANT MORE INFO?

More details about the upcoming diocesan Eucharistic Congress are available online at [www.goeucharist.com](http://www.goeucharist.com).

More pilgrimage photos online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Irish church officials step up campaign against abuse of Mass cards

BY MICHAEL KELLY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DUBLIN, Ireland — Catholic Church officials in Ireland are stepping up the campaign against so-called "Mass traffickers," people who make money from the commercial abuse of the Mass.

Bishop Colm O'Reilly of Ardagh said church officials are "extremely concerned about the sale of presigned Mass cards in shops for commercial gain."

"It's an enormous industry and there's a huge amount of money to be made out of it; it's deplorable," he said.

The Mass cards in question are on sale in hundreds of newsstands around Ireland and have a preprinted signature purporting to be that of a missionary priest. The cost is supposed to be the offering for the Mass.

However, church authorities believe that as much as 70 percent of the offering stays with the local shop while the remaining 30 percent is pocketed by the distributor, who makes unspecified contributions — if any — to the priest.

Missionary orders are concerned that unsuspecting members of the public may be buying these Mass cards in the hope that they are contributing to the missions.

"The public are being duped into believing that they are supporting charitable work in the Third World," said Father Fachtna O'Driscoll, Irish provincial of the Society of African Missions.

"There is no transparency or accountability in this trade, and it diminishes the trust and confidence of the public in charities," he said.

Father Patrick Courtney, provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, warned that "a new feature of the trade

"It's an enormous industry and there's a huge amount of money to be made out of it."

— Bishop Colm O'Reilly

is the printing of signatures ... that are illegible, and therefore cannot be traced by the church authorities."

"The kernel of the problem is that commercial interests — who are not charities, nor do they state that they are charities — are mimicking the normal administration of Mass cards," he said.

The missionary orders are calling on the government to tackle the problem in the Charities Bill, which currently is going through the legislature.

Pat Carey, the minister of state responsible for the legislation, has told church officials that when the bill is enacted the "purchase of signed Mass cards would be regarded as making a charitable gift for the advancement of religion and would necessitate registration of the beneficiary."

"In the future, if Mass cards sold in such a manner did not have a statement that the beneficiary is registered as a charity in Ireland, the public would be right to have concerns about the organization producing them," he said.

However, Carey refused to say whether the government intended to make this a criminal offense. The minister said he was seeking the advice of the attorney general before bringing the legislation back to the committee stage in the legislature.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAR. 23, 2008

March 23, Easter Sunday:  
*The Resurrection of the Lord*

### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
- 2) Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel: John 20:1-9

## Our focus should be on Jesus, not material things

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I walked into the house to a familiar sight, the light blinking on the answering machine.

Who could it be this time? Maybe it's another recorded message from Senator McCain asking for my support in the upcoming election, or a friend who I haven't heard from in a while, or maybe some well-deserving cause asking for support?

As it turns out, it was a "Happy Anniversary" message from the dealership where I purchased my truck.

Needless to say, I was a bit surprised. It sent my mind back two years to when, at the age of 40, I purchased my first brand new vehicle.

I remember being so proud and joyous at finally owning the truck I had been dreaming about since I first moved to Texas 25 years earlier.

My happy trip down memory lane came to an abrupt halt when I sat down to prepare this column.

I ran smack dab into St. Paul saying, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

Paul's words brought back another memory from two years ago: I remember driving home from the truck dealership with mixed feelings. Sure, I was very happy, but in the back of my mind, I wondered if I was a bit too happy with my new toy.

All of us can fall under the spell of materialism. I suppose the first-century Christians may have been having similar problems that prompted Paul to challenge them to seek what is above, not what is on the earth.

The resurrection of Jesus is the single most important event in human history. Without it our faith is useless and our hope is for naught. It redefines everything for us.

Yes, the things of this earth can tempt us to focus on the here and now, but Easter is the great day that shifts our gaze from here to the hereafter.

### Questions:

What are the things of earth that hold your attention? What are some things you can do to refocus on what is above?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 16-22

Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; Monday (Monday of Holy Week), Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week), Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; Thursday (Holy Thursday), Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; Friday (Good Friday), Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; Saturday (Holy Saturday), Exodus 14:15-15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 18:1-10.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23-29

Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; Monday (Easter Monday), Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; Tuesday (Easter Tuesday), Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; Wednesday (Easter Wednesday), Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; Thursday (Easter Thursday), Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; Friday (Easter Friday), Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; Saturday (Easter Saturday), Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

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THE  
CATHOLIC  
NEWS HERALD



# Martin Sheen named recipient of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal

*Catholic actor, activist honored for illustrating 'ideals of the church'*

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Actor Martin Sheen, whose human rights activism may be as well known these days as his acting credits, has been named the 2008 recipient of the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal, the school's oldest and most prestigious honor.

The award was established in 1883 as an annual honor for a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

The award will be presented to Sheen during the university's 163rd commencement exercises May 18.

"As one of our nation's most

recognizable and accomplished screen actors, Martin Sheen has achieved a level of celebrity that few Americans enjoy," said Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president.

"He has used that celebrity to draw the attention of his fellow citizens to issues that cry out for redress, such as the plight of immigrant workers and homeless people, the waging of unjust war, the killing of the unborn and capital punishment," the priest said in a statement.

"We welcome the opportunity to lift up his example for our church, our country and our students," Father Jenkins said.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Sheen was born Aug. 3, 1940, one of 10 children of a Spanish-born father and an Irish-born mother.

His legal and baptismal name is Ramon Gerardo Antonio Estevez, but he later took his stage surname from Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, whose style on his popular national television broadcasts the actor really admired.

Sheen once said he considers the archbishop "the first televangelist."

After his graduation from Marianist-run Chaminade High School in Dayton, Sheen claims to have intentionally failed his entrance examination for the University of

Dayton, also a Marianist school, so he could pursue an acting career of which his father disapproved.

Borrowing money from a priest friend, he went to New York City, where he worked with Julian Beck's Living Theatre and eventually landed a widely acclaimed role in the 1964 Broadway play "The Subject Was Roses."

During this period, he learned about Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement, visiting and volunteering at the Catholic Worker's houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Sheen has played numerous award-winning television and film roles, most notably an amoral young murderer in the 1973 film "Badlands," a disillusioned Army captain in the 1979 film "Apocalypse Now," a bemused journalist in the 1982 biopic "Gandhi," and the itinerant French co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, Peter Maurin, in the 1996 film "Entertaining Angels."

From 1999 to 2006, on NBC's widely acclaimed television series "The West Wing," he played U.S. President Josiah Bartlet, who was a Notre Dame graduate.

A self-described Catholic peace activist, opponent of abortion and student of Catholic social teaching, Sheen often says he owes a spiritual debt to Day, St. Francis of Assisi, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan and the late labor leader Cesar Chavez.

He often has been arrested as a participant in nonviolent demonstrations against various U.S. military policies, including protests at Fort Benning, Ga., where the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation is located.

He also donates money, time and his celebrity to help alleviate poverty and homelessness, and to promote human rights for migrant workers and environmental protection.

In a 1999 interview with Catholic News Service, he credited his activism to the Holy Spirit.

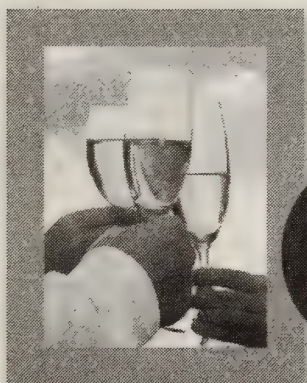
"I didn't start being active until I was in my 40s," Sheen said. "I came back to Catholicism when I was 41. I had abandoned it for many years."

He returned to his Catholic faith and put his activism in high gear, he said, after recovering from an emotional breakdown following what had been a grueling production schedule for "Apocalypse Now," Francis Ford Coppola's epic about the Vietnam War.

That activism "comes from my faith and my humanity," Sheen told CNS. "I believe that Jesus was nonviolent and he calls us to a nonviolent discipleship. And I think we are either going to embrace nonviolence or nonexistence. Those are the rules. Sorry, I didn't make them up."

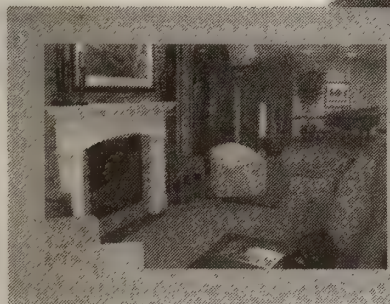
The Laetare Medal is so named because its recipient is announced each year in celebration of Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent on the church calendar.

Recipients include Civil War Gen. William Rosecrans, operatic tenor John McCormack, President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day, novelist Walker Percy, Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin, and death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille.



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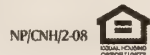
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This is a 12-month position beginning July 1, 2008. Learn more about Blessed Trinity by visiting [www.btcatholic.org](http://www.btcatholic.org). Send letter of interest and resume to Mr. Frank Moore, Principal, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, 11320 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075, or as a Word document or PDF to [fmoore@btcatholic.org](mailto:fmoore@btcatholic.org). Application deadline: March 21, 2008.

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St. Anne Catholic School in Rock Hill, SC seeks candidates for principal, starting date as soon as possible (no later than June 2, 2008). Qualifications—practicing Catholic with dynamic leadership skills, valid educational certification, master's degree in educational administration or equivalent, and evidence of successful teaching experience. Prior experience in school administration and Catholic school marketing preferred. St. Anne School is PK-8 with 300 students. Visit our web site [www.stanneschool.com](http://www.stanneschool.com)



Send letter of interest, resume and statement of philosophy on education to: Principal Search Committee, David Grider, School Board President, 1698 Bird Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730

## — PRINCIPAL —

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The application package should consist of a letter of interest, copies of college transcripts and certificates, completed "Professional Educator Application" and "Principal Application Addendum," and signed "Authorization to Release Information" and "Disclosure to Employment Applicant Regarding Procurement of a Consumer Report." These forms are available on the school's website: <http://www.mdchs.org>.

Apply to: Principal Search Committee, 590 Lavender Road, Athens, Georgia 30606



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FT, includes every Sat. – Coordinates prep and serving of food orders, working w/adults with mental retardation. Req. 2 yr degree in culinary arts with min. 2 yrs' exp. in food handling, catering and supervision in a restaurant setting; and valid NC driver's license

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## FROM THE COVER

# National abuse audit: Soaring costs, fewer allegations

SURVEY, from page 1

abuse cases by U.S. dioceses and religious orders.

The 2007 Survey of Allegations and Costs released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops March 7 also reported a continued decrease in the number of new credible allegations of abuse: 599 new allegations were made in 2007, compared with 635 in 2006, 695 in 2005 and 898 in 2004, the first year of the survey.

Only five of the new allegations involved abuse that occurred in 2007. As in past years, most allegations involved abuse that took place before 1985.

According to the survey conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, dioceses and religious institutes paid \$615

million for legal settlements, therapy, support for offenders, attorneys' fees and other costs. In the four previous years of the survey, the highest amount paid out was \$466 million in 2005. Of the \$615 million, dioceses spent \$499 million and religious orders paid \$116 million.

Figures for the Diocese of Charlotte were reported in the diocesan annual report, released in October 2007. During the 2007 fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2007, the diocese paid \$13,650 for victims' counseling. None of the funds used came from either the Diocesan Support Appeal or from church savings.

Teresa Kettelkamp, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, said the annual costs may continue to be high in coming years, as dioceses pay off settlements to victims of abuse.

In 2007 several dioceses and religious

orders announced large settlements, including \$660 million for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, covering more than 500 claimants, and a settlement of \$50 million for more than 100 claimants by the Oregon-based Jesuit province whose members served in Alaska.

A portion of those settlements is being paid by insurers and is not included in the figures for what dioceses and religious orders have spent.

Kettelkamp said it's difficult to predict whether the number of allegations of abuse will continue to decrease, partly because victims of sexual abuse often wait decades to report what happened to them.

Meanwhile, U.S. schools, parishes and dioceses have put nearly all of the targeted 8.5 million children and adults through training programs meant to teach people at all levels of the church how to prevent abuse from occurring, to spot the signs of abuse and to ensure that it is reported.

An annual audit of compliance with the bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" released at the same time as the CARA survey found

that more than 99 percent of the 37,000 U.S. priests have participated in what is called "safe environment" training.

The training had also been completed by more than 99 percent of deacons and educators, more than 98 percent of 4,918 candidates for ordination, 98 percent of 229,000 church employees, 98 percent of 1.4 million volunteers, and more than 96 percent of the 5.9 million children involved in church programs.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, 2,600 church workers and volunteers attended "Protecting God's Children" workshops in 2007. To date, 15,700 employees and volunteers have attended the training.

The cost for the 2007 workshops and 2,400 background checks was \$63,537.

The audit found 178 of the 190 dioceses that participated to be in full compliance with every article of the charter. The Diocese of Charlotte was found in full compliance.

Twelve others were in compliance except for one or two of its 17 articles. Nearly all those fell short on Article 12, the one requiring "safe environment" programs, and almost all gaps were in getting all children through the programs, it said.

"The difficulty has to do with a number of factors," said the audit report, "the sheer number of individuals in each category ...; the fluctuation of those numbers; the need to develop and maintain concise record keeping ... and the time-consuming process of selecting safe environment programs that are age-appropriate and in accord with Catholic moral principles."

Kettelkamp said it has proven especially difficult to track one category of people designated in the charter for the training — parents — so it's unclear how many have participated. Many parents have received training because they are volunteers or employees of the church, and so are counted in those numbers. Others are encouraged to participate in sessions offered for various groups.

Five of the new reports received in 2007 related to abuse involving a minor that occurred that same year. Of the 599 new credible reports, only five cases among religious orders and 38 involving diocesan clergy were reported to have occurred since 1990.

Five of the 491 church employees implicated in new reports of abuse were deacons and the rest were priests; 374 of these men had already died, been removed from ministry or been laicized, or were missing. Previous allegations had been made against 287 of the men accused.

In October 2007, an allegation of sexual abuse was made against Oblate Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, N.C., involving an incident that allegedly took place in Maryland nearly 50 years ago.

After an investigation by the diocesan review board and Father Gondek's order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, the allegation was found not credible.

Father Gondek was returned to pastoral ministry by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Dec. 23. The allegation was made after the 2007 audit was conducted.

In June 2002, the U.S. bishops adopted the charter and its mandates for an annual audit and survey and also adopted the "Essential Norms" to assure that all dioceses adhere to the charter.

Contributing was David Hains.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Sacrifices to the gun, our leading idol

*Today's violence raises questions about needs, uses of guns*

The five little crosses placed in the snow outside Northern Illinois University recently stirred thoughts contrasting sacrifice and crucifixion, a Lenten meditation so to speak.

On Valentine's Day, a man with three pistols and a shotgun walked into a lecture hall, killed five students and wounded 16 others.

It seemed a modern-day crucifixion, but I rejected it on second thought. The paradigm, set by the crucifixion of Christ, requires a victim obedient to God's will dying for the redemption of others.

The death of the students here was more akin to the sacrifice of a primitive civilization to an idol: tragic and senseless. The idol here is the insistence on the dubious Second Amendment right to own and carry arms.

Seeing the bright, intelligent faces and reading the capsule biographies of the four young women and young man whose dreams were cut short made me grieve for them and for their families.

I was especially struck by that of the youngest one, 20-year-old Catalina Garcia, from Cicero, Ill., who wanted to become a teacher. "She wanted to become somebody in life; that is why she was going to school," her father told a Spanish-language radio station.

Perhaps her story was the most touching because my own granddaughter, Kathryn Sandoval, begins college next fall, and she, too, wants to become a teacher. I pray that God will protect her, for schools and colleges are not the havens they once were.

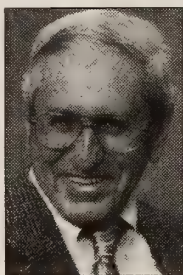
Last year there were shootings at Virginia Tech, a few years earlier at Columbine High School in a Denver suburb, more recently at Louisiana Technical College, and an Oxnard junior high school in California. There have been many others.

Half a century ago when I was in college, I had only one searing experience involving guns, when as a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps I was handed my Army rifle. I shrank from the thought that I might someday have to use it to kill other human beings.

That Rubicon has long been crossed;

## Seeking Life

MOISES SANDOVAL  
CNS COLUMNIST



today it is thought we cannot be secure unless we have guns at hand and the disposition to use them. Then we would have never imagined that going to class could be a life-threatening experience.

Reports of people who die needlessly from gunfire gain my attention because several members of my extended family have died that way.

One was my cousin Danny Suazo, 37, killed on April 28, 1995, at the large supermarket he managed in the Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo.

A 36-year-old auto mechanic armed with a .50-caliber rifle, a second rifle with a detachable 30-round magazine and a 9mm pistol similar to those issued to the police, burst into the store in pursuit of his wife, Terry, the deli manager.

He had already wounded the woman who drove her to work.

As Suazo tried to help Terry hide behind the service counter, the gunman shot him three times. He then killed the woman and Sheriff Sgt. Timothy Mossbrucker, 36, whose wife was expecting their sixth child.

Suazo left four children, all under the age of 14. The gunman told police he went crazy for a while.

In the Illinois shootings, everyone was shocked upon learning the assailant, who committed suicide, was an outstanding 27-year-old graduate student, "engaging, polite and industrious," with a bright future.

He had a firearms owner's identification card issued by the state police after he passed a criminal background check.

But the problem is no one can tell when a gun owner will go crazy enough to kill.

## Vatican statement on baptism underscores need for caution

*Sacred language cannot be changed, negotiated*

Not to worry. If you were married on February 28, you were still married on February 29.

That disclaimer comes in the wake of a Vatican statement regarding the validity of baptisms.

The statement issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith underscores the need for caution in two areas: knee-jerk reaction over statements from the Vatican and the danger of arbitrarily changing sacred language — despite good intentions.

The brief statement from the congregation — simply one-word answers to questions posed — said a baptism administered "in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier" is not a valid baptism.

Neither is one administered in the name of the "Creator, Liberator and Sustainer."

And, yes, the congregation said, persons who underwent that rite would need to be baptized correctly "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

There they go again, was the reaction of some who visualize the congregation as a group of theological nitpickers who randomly issue rules and regulations for no other reason than taking some perverse pleasure in rulemaking.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in matters such as this acts somewhat like a civil court when asked to render a summary judgment. In some instances, a judge will agree to issue a clarifying opinion on a point of law.

Such was the case here as the congregation was asked three specific questions by bishops about the practice recently initiated in North America.

The alternate wording was intended to avoid referring to the Trinity with masculine names.

Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, what's the difference, especially if it was done with a good intention of not giving offense?

The problem, as noted by Msgr. Antonio Miralles in a commentary commissioned by the congregation, is that it "subverts faith in the Trinity."

The substituted words dilute the distinction among the three persons of the Trinity, all of whom are involved together in the divine action of creation, redemption and sanctification, he said.

These are not the "what happens if I

Extra!  
Extra!

STEPHEN D. KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



don't say my penance before leaving the church and I'm struck and killed by a car on the way home?" questions so familiar from the fourth-grade moral theologians of days of yore.

The words —the nouns for each person of the Trinity —are foundational to our faith. There is no little irony in the invalidating of a rite that is meant to be the profession of faith.

One aspect of the congregation's answer did cause some concern. In another commentary commissioned by the congregation, Cardinal Urbano Navarrete said the most serious practical consequence would be in the case of marriage where there would not be a sacrament if both spouses had been baptized with an invalid formula.

Few Americans should have much concern.

"If you are not validly baptized, a person needs to get rebaptized and remarried," said Father Tom Weinandy, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Doctrine.

But the assumption is that all is well unless there was a witness to the baptism who knew the incorrect formula was used.

"The presumption is the obvious truth that the baptism is valid," said Father Weinandy.

Persons over the age of 50 should have little concern, he said, and those younger shouldn't either.

Lesson learned? The risk of treading into dangerous theological ground in a well-meaning, if ill-advised attempt at popularizing language to meet a social trend.

And on a positive note, this demonstrates the importance of baptism. It is not an enlistment oath or contract where words can be negotiated.

It is, after all, not a club we join, but a fundamental action incorporating us into Christ's life, death and resurrection.



CNS PHOTO BY KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI, REUTERS

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Are children punished for parents' wickedness?

*Q. I am a teacher in our parish religious education program. My subject is not the Bible, but I receive many questions about the Scriptures.*

*One of my students pointed out the passage in the Book of Exodus, "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their father's wickedness on the children of those who hate me down to the third and fourth generation."*

*Does this mean our children will be punished for what we do? (Ohio)*

A. No, it doesn't mean that. Obviously, what our parents and others close to us do in their lives significantly influences our attitudes, values and character. But God does not hold us guilty for the sins of others.

One fascinating phenomenon in the Bible, particularly as we go through the Old Testament, is the gradual development and purification of humanity's understanding of and relationship to God.

This is true among the Jewish people from Abraham to Jesus Christ. More than once, for example, we read how Hebrew armies at times annihilated their enemies — men, women and children, even animals. This was said to be done with the blessing, even the command, of God himself.

Today every Christian and probably most of the rest of the world would

find such slaughter appalling, at odds with every principle of human and Christian morality.

Even in later centuries during the period before the coming of Christ this attitude toward one's enemies was increasingly recognized as incompatible with a proper understanding of God and his love for all people.

A similar development happened in the subject you mention. In many cultures, including that of ancient Jews, a theory prevailed that guilt and innocence, holiness and sin were connected to the entire tribe or community.

If the patriarch sins, all the tribe are considered enemies of God or the gods. If the patriarch is good and just, the entire tribe shares his holiness.

More and more frequently as time went on in Hebrew culture, we find this understanding of vicarious guilt and holiness rejected by God. Perhaps the most dramatic instance is in Ezekiel, whose awareness and reverence before the majesty and infinite holiness of God is surpassed by no other prophet.

At one point (Chapter 18) he rejects an erroneous understanding of God expressed in a popular adage, "Fathers have eaten green grapes, thus their children's teeth are on edge."

So ingrained was the tribal concept of inherited guilt that Ezekiel had to defend himself and God against the accusation that judging people individually on their

## Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



own merits was unfair.

The Lord is forced to say, "Is it my way that is not fair, or rather is it not that your ways are unfair." Each person is responsible for his or her own actions; he or she cannot lay the blame or credit on someone else.

Before we too quickly judge these ancient beliefs harshly, we might ask how often we have heard others or perhaps ourselves remark in the face of tragedy, "What have I done to deserve this? Why am I being punished for something I didn't do?"

Unfortunately, we still tend to make God in our own image and likeness, assuming that our understanding, our vision of reality must be God's vision, our sense of justice his sense.

*A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).*

# Pope: Even in facing torture, happiness is possible with hope in God

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even in the face of terrible misfortune and suffering, true happiness is possible as long as one continues to have hope in God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

When personal disaster strikes, only true friends stick around, and one of those true friends is God, he said.

At his March 12 general audience at the Vatican, Pope Benedict discussed two early Christian writers, Boethius and Cassiodorus.

The pope called Boethius, who was imprisoned, tortured and executed, a "symbol of a huge number of detainees unjustly" imprisoned throughout history and the world today. The pope said Cassiodorus promoted the monastic movement and believed monks were the best people to salvage, preserve and pass down the cultural heritage of classical Christian culture.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English:*

# The multi-faceted challenges of poverty

*Realizing its causes and fighting them are essential*

They came out in droves to hear and award a simple Dominican pastor and theologian who has helped change the way Catholic theology views the poor.

In November 2007, Peruvian Father Gustavo Gutierrez received the prestigious Sophia Award at Washington Theological Union in Washington, which educates seminarians and lay people for leadership.

Father Gutierrez was born June 8, 1928, in Lima. He is regarded as the founder of liberation theology, which holds that Christian poverty is an act of loving solidarity with the poor as well as a protest against poverty.

Like many before him who have championed the liberation of the poor, Father Gutierrez was criticized and even questioned by Rome about his orthodoxy. Like a true champion, he was exonerated and continues his mission.

"Poverty is very complex," Father Gutierrez told his audience. Usually it is envisioned in economic terms. It is not only about people deprived of material

goods; it is also about people living in cultures other than their own and not being accepted.

It is about being a female living in a culture that degrades females. It is about lacking an education. It is about being on the margins of society, experiencing sadness and death.

Interestingly, Father Gutierrez pointed out that even tax collectors during Christ's time can be considered poor because they were outcasts. He also pointed out that poverty doesn't exist only in poor ghettos or barrios; a rich person afflicted with depression ranks among the poor.

Poverty is universal. It is found everywhere. It is sadness, the direct antithesis of joy.

Father Gutierrez considered people who see poverty as their fate. He spoke of a woman who felt women were born into suffering. She accepted this as natural and felt it to be the will of God.

To this he said, "Poverty has causes.

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



We make poverty, and that which we make we can unmake."

It is our God-given duty to stand against philosophies and theologies that accept poverty without raising essential and ultimate questions about its causes.

Fighting poverty isn't only about donations; it involves speaking out against its causes.

"Poverty ultimately means death," Gutierrez said. "Too many poor people are dying before their time. Just look at Africa! As Christians it is our duty to always champion life over death."

How do we best fight poverty?

One way is to read the Bible and the life of Christ from the viewpoint of the poor — to cultivate a biblical spirituality of the poor. A great power of the prophets in the Old Testament was their ability to read the times and speak to the people in down-to-earth terms through the eyes of God.

Father Gustavo Gutierrez did this the night of his award at Washington Theological Union.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I wish to speak to you about two great Christian writers from the Italian peninsula during the period after the fall of the Roman Empire in the West: Boethius and Cassiodorus.

Both were anxious to preserve the heritage of Greek and Roman learning, handed down through generations of Christian believers, in the context of the Gothic culture that dominated Italy at the time. Boethius, born in Rome in 480, entered public life and became a senator, though he continued his philosophical and religious studies alongside his public responsibilities.

Unjustly imprisoned and later executed by King Theodoric, he wrote his greatest philosophical work in prison. Reflecting on the injustice of his situation, in the light of biblical wisdom literature and Classical authors, he concluded that true happiness lies in continuing to hope in God, despite adversity.

Indeed, harsh fortune helps us to distinguish true friends from false ones, and there can be few greater consolations than that of true friendship.

His contemporary, Cassiodorus, devoted much time and energy to promoting the monastic movement in the belief that monks were the people best placed to preserve and hand on the heritage of classical Christian culture.

We would do well to take note of his advice to them: "Meditate day and night on the law of the Lord and always focus your attention upon Christ."





COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Carmelita Hagan of Catherine's House in Belmont accepts an envelope filled with gift cards from 8-year-old Jackie Flynn Feb. 27.

"She is setting a wonderful example for other young people."

## Little girl gives big gift

*Generosity benefits ministry for women, children in need*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — It is not often an 8-year-old forgoes an opportunity to receive presents. However, this year on her birthday, that is exactly what Jackie Flynn did.

In lieu of presents, Jackie, asked family and friends to buy gift cards for Catherine's House, a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides transitional housing for women and children who are homeless.

Jackie learned about Catherine's House from her mother, Carolanne Flynn, who took a tour of the facility last December.

When the Flynn's, who attend Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, began making preparations for Jackie's Feb. 9 birthday, they decided the party itself was a big enough gift. Jackie's mom suggested that, instead of presents, she consider collecting donations for a charity.

"I planted the seed, but ultimately it was her choice," said Carolanne Flynn.

She said Jackie, a second-grader at Charlotte Preparatory School, was touched by the fact that Catherine's House was helping homeless children.

Located on the grounds of the former Sacred Heart College in Belmont, Catherine's House provides a safe and caring environment as well as supportive programs and services for women and children in need.

"I wanted to do something to help the homeless people so they could buy something for their children and for themselves," Jackie said.

The response from friends and family was overwhelming. On Feb. 27,



COURTESY PHOTO

Jackie Flynn, 8, is pictured with Karen Andrews, president and CEO of Catherine's House Feb. 27.

Jackie presented Catherine's House with a donation of gift cards totaling \$345.

Karen Andrews, president and CEO of Catherine's House, attributes the contribution to Jackie's "giving heart."

"I think it is unique to have that level of social awareness at her age," she said.

Sister of Mercy Carmelita Hagan, volunteer coordinator at Catherine's House, was also impressed by Jackie's kindness.

"She is setting a wonderful example for other young people," she said.

Sister Hagan also commended Jackie's parents for instilling the value of generosity in their child.

"They helped her to grow as a young person and to understand a little bit about helping other people at such a young age," she said.

Catherine's House is designed to help women and families overcome homelessness and return to a self-sufficient lifestyle in the community.

The organization relies heavily on in-kind donations and volunteer support. "Volunteers are invaluable to our program," said Sister Hagan.

Last year, more than 3,400 hours of assistance came from volunteers, according to Andrews.

Gift cards are especially appreciated because they allow the facilitators to go out and buy the things the residents need.

Women and families admitted to Catherine's House are typically required to stay a minimum of 90 days. During that time a case manager sets goals according to the individual's needs.

"We try to help them help themselves. To make them aware of their own power, to return to the community in a dignified way so they can contribute back to that community," said Andrews.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Catherine's House, contact Mercy Sister Carmelita Hagan at (704) 825 9599 or visit [www.catherineshouseinc.org](http://www.catherineshouseinc.org).

The Diocese of Charlotte  
invites you, your family and friends to join Fr. Mo West  
as we experience the

**Lake Country and  
Treasures of Northern Italy!**  
September 14-24, 2008



Your 11-day excursion with full-time escort includes these highlights:

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- \* A visit to Umbria's picturesque hillside town of Assisi – peace-filled home of St. Francis and St. Clare
- \* Tuscany's Florence awaits us, the birthplace of the Renaissance with Michelangelo's works and the Uffizi Gallery just part of our visit
- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



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MARCH 21, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 21

## Perspectives

Bishop Jugis' Easter  
column; joyful traditions  
inspire by Easter

| PAGES 14-15

## Humble beginnings, bright future

Parishioners  
celebrate church's  
60th anniversary

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEBORO — In the late 1940s, a small group of Catholics began meeting for Mass in the Asheboro area.

Sixty years later and 600 families greater, the parish of St. Joseph Church is still growing and steadily moving forward.

Parishioners and clergy gathered March 15 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the church's dedication. The bilingual Mass was celebrated by Father Christopher Davis, pastor, and Oblate Father Joseph Tustin, a former pastor.

The parish today is a mixture of many cultures, including German, Polish,

See ST. JOSEPH, page 6

## CHRIST IS RISEN



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

The resurrection of Christ is depicted in a mosaic at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is March 23 this year. For Easter-related coverage, see pages 14, 15 and 16.

## Striding to make a change

Pilgrims hope to  
better conditions for  
immigrant workers

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

MORGANTON — With wooden crosses in their hands and prayers for justice on their hearts, a group of about 20 people walked to promote fair immigration policies and justice for immigrant workers.

Parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church joined members of the Carolina Interfaith Taskforce for Central America (CITCA) March 17 to raise awareness of unjust worker conditions in Carolina poultry plants.

As part of CITCA's 2008 Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace, participants walked a mile from the church to the Case Farms poultry processing plant, where they held a prayer service for worker justice.

See POULTRY, page 7



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priests and deacons gather around Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the eucharistic prayer at the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 18.

## Bishop calls priests to be 'slaves for the Lord'

Priests renew vows of service at annual chrism Mass

OILS BLESSED FOR USE  
THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Upon entering the office of the church, priests are called to renounce themselves, and give up "their own will and their own ambition," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis at the

annual chrism Mass.

"We sacrifice our own pleasure — our own will — in celebrating the liturgy and in teaching, and we faithfully hand on what the church has entrusted to us," he said during his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 18.

Approximately 90 priests

See CHRISM, page 5

## Irish spirit



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Even canines get into the Irish spirit during the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte March 15.

For more photos, see pages 8-9.

### In Brief

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Book on American nun in  
Brazil; college controversy

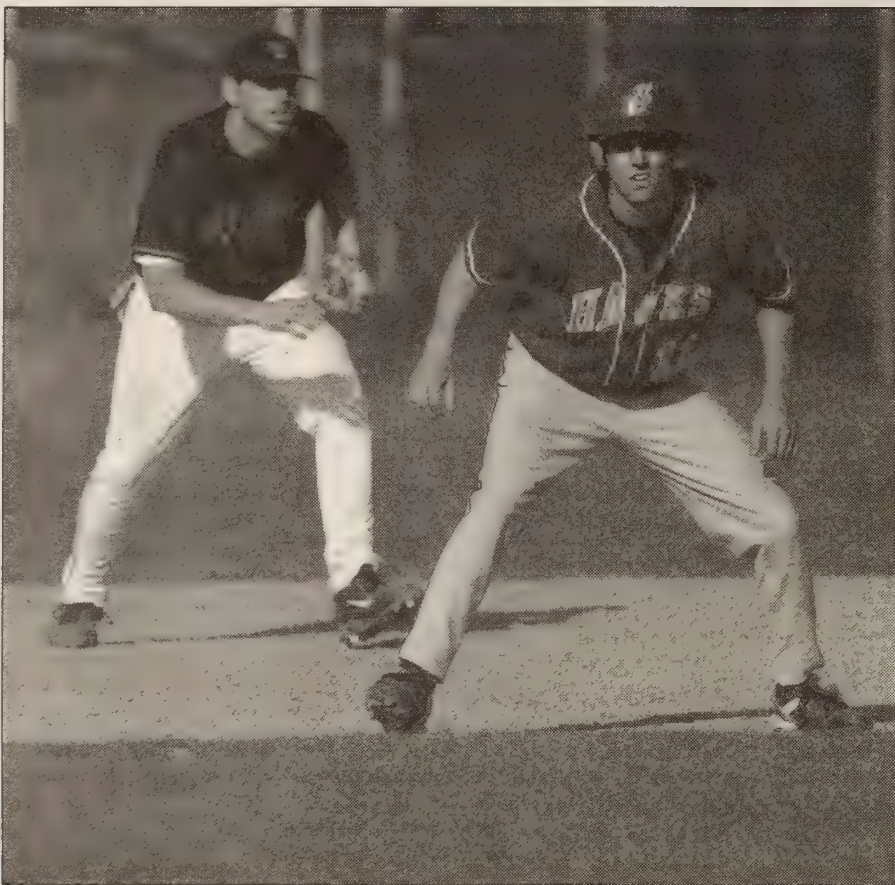
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## BASEBALL BEFORE BENEDICT



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

Jeremy Jakubowski (front), a senior on the baseball team at Jesuit-run St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, is seen during a 2007 game. Jakubowski, who is from Jarrettsville, Md., will be one of the St. Joseph's Hawks playing against George Washington University March 22, Holy Saturday, at Nationals Park, the new home of the National League's Washington Nationals. Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate a Mass at the stadium April 17.

## Catholic college to be first to set foot in new major league stadium

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The baseball team from Jesuit-run St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia will get to do something not even Pope Benedict XVI will be able to do: break in a major league baseball stadium.

When the pope celebrates Mass in Nationals Park April 17, it will be the first nonbaseball event to take place at the new home of the National League's Washington Nationals.

But the St. Joseph's Hawks will get to play a game there — against the George Washington University Colonials March 22, Holy Saturday.

It will be the closing game of a three-game series between St. Joseph's and George Washington that kicks off the Atlantic-10 season for both squads.

"Our coaching staff alerted me to that possibility" probably at the beginning of the new year, said Joe Greenwich, assistant director of athletic communication at St. Joseph's.

"I know the coaches were pretty excited about the prospect, especially (playing there) before the major leaguers have played," he said.

The Nationals' opening day is March 30, but to work out whatever transportation and stadium bugs may arise before the season starts, the Nats also

have scheduled some dress rehearsals, including a March 29 exhibition game with the Baltimore Orioles.

It's an invitation-only affair for workers involved in the ballpark's construction and other select individuals.

The invite list for the St. Joseph's-George Washington game is even smaller: 2,000 maximum, with 1,500 tickets going to the home team and 500 to St. Joe's. Distribution of those tickets, Greenwich said, would be "private" and include the families of players.

The Hawks were 2-10 in preseason play as of March 11.

"We've lost a lot of close games," Greenwich said, including a series of losses at the Rollins College Baseball Tournament in Winter Park, Fla., as part of the team's annual spring break trip.

St. Joseph's and George Washington, like all Atlantic-10 teams, play a Friday-Sunday series each weekend. But on Easter weekend, all teams play a Good Friday doubleheader to avoid playing on Easter.

The Good Friday games are scheduled for George Washington's usual home field, Barcroft Park in Arlington, Va., across the Potomac River from the university's home in Washington.

## Bishops hope to work with new governor for 'common good' of New York

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — The head of the New York State Catholic Conference in Albany, on behalf of the conference and the state's Catholic bishops, assured New York's new governor of prayers as he "assumes his awesome responsibilities under extraordinarily difficult circumstances."

"I look forward to working closely with Gov. (David) Paterson and the Legislature on behalf of the common good" of the state, said Richard Barnes, the conference's executive director, March 12.

Paterson, the state's lieutenant governor, was sworn in as governor March 17 to succeed Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who announced his resignation March 12 in the wake of a prostitution-ringing scandal.

Barnes said he and Paterson have not always agreed, but said that Paterson has been respectful of the state's Catholic conference "in our role as advocates for the most vulnerable

members of society."

The Catholic conference represents New York state's bishops in matters of public policy.

Barnes also said Paterson has "an appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church, which is the largest nongovernmental provider of health care, human services and education in New York state, and for the perspective we bring to the public policy arena."

On March 10, the day news reports broke the Spitzer scandal, the governor was scheduled to meet privately with N.Y. Cardinal Edward M. Egan and other N.Y. Catholic bishops to discuss abortion legislation, education tax credits and other issues.

N.Y. Catholic officials have been especially outspoken against legislation Spitzer was proposing that would legalize partial-birth abortion. News reports indicate Paterson, who is considered more liberal than Spitzer, supports the bill.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at Debra Mattison's house, 4 Brook Meadows Lane, 7 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jebkraft@juno.com](mailto:jebkraft@juno.com).

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit [www.catholicscripturestudy.com](http://www.catholicscripturestudy.com) for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien

Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The U.S. Army Field Band of Washington, D.C. will offer a free performance at Charlotte Catholic High School March 31, at 7 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Educational Foundation and the Charlotte Catholic High School Band Parents Association. To obtain free tickets or for more information, call Stanley Michalski at (704) 541-8016.

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte *Community Blood Drive* will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., March 26. The blood drive will take place in the first floor conference room from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, please call Terri Wilhelm at (704) 370-6299 or e-mail [mswilhelm@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mswilhelm@charlottediocese.org).

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral will offer a free *Estate Planning Seminar* at 7 p.m. April 17. A complimentary dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The seminar is offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Charlotte. Information on wills, trusts and overall estate planning will be presented by Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the diocese, and Heidi Royal, trusts and estates attorney with Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. Contact Les Davaz at (704) 331-2233 or [lesdavaz@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lesdavaz@carolina.rr.com) to register.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will sponsor a *high school senior* so she can go to prom. This is for a girl who wants to go to prom, but may not have the financial means. Please send a short essay about yourself or someone you know to: St. Matthew Columbiettes, Auxiliary 10852, Attn: Prom Committee, PO Box 49349 Charlotte, NC 28277. Deadline is April 7.

CHARLOTTE — *Celebrate Divine Mercy*

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican official calls for protection of unborn, seriously ill

GENEVA (CNS) — A Vatican official urged government delegates to help protect the lives of the unborn and those suffering from serious and deadly illnesses.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, said "no compromise can be made with a person's right to life itself, from conception to natural death, nor with that person's ability to enjoy the dignity which flows from that right."

He spoke during a March 11 session on the protection of human rights by the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva. He focused on the U.N. council's Jan. 31 report on the right of all people to "the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health."

He said people "who require special protection" should never be overlooked or denied the right to life,

particularly "children in the womb and those suffering from grave and life-threatening illnesses."

He said the Vatican "urgently hopes that references (in the report) to 'emergency obstetric care' will never be misconstrued to justify the forced ending of human life before birth."

He said it was also important that other terminology, such as a nation being obliged to "identify a minimum 'basket' of health services and 'striking balances'" in the health care system "will not be interpreted in a manner that denies essential services to the seriously ill."

He also asked that religious organizations — which provide a significant portion of health care services around the world — be allowed "a place at the table during the formulation of health care plans on national or local levels."

## Vatican's official program for papal trip to U.S. shares more details

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Published just a month before Pope Benedict XVI's scheduled arrival in the United States, the Vatican's official program for the April 15-20 papal trip to Washington and New York was all that had been promised and a tiny bit more.

In addition to the previously announced meetings, Pope Benedict will hold a brief meeting April 16 with representatives of Catholic charitable foundations.

The papal itinerary, published March 17 by the Vatican, also includes a lunch April 16 and a dinner April 18 with the U.S. cardinals, the officers of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and members of the papal entourage.

In addition, the Vatican said the pope and his entourage would have a luncheon April 19 with Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York and the New York auxiliary bishops at Cardinal Egan's residence.

The Vatican itinerary also contained

some indications of how people who did not get tickets to either the April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington or the April 20 Mass in New York's Yankee Stadium could see the pope.

In Washington April 16, the pope is planning to go by popemobile from the White House to the apostolic nunciature on Massachusetts Avenue. The same evening, he will switch from a car to the popemobile on his way from the nunciature to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

After meeting representatives of Catholic universities and diocesan education offices April 17 at The Catholic University of America, he will use the popemobile to cover the short distance to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

In New York, the pope is scheduled to use the popemobile only once, April 19, to go from Cardinal Egan's residence to the residence of the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations.

*Sunday* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. There will be a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet March 30, at 3 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host *Ultreya* April 20, 12-2 p.m., in rooms 125/132 in the New Life Center — please note this is a change. There will be no pot luck this month. Babysitting is available, but you must contact Vickie Torres at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011 to reserve a spot for your children. Guest speaker this month will be Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast. There is also *Ultreya* every fourth Wednesday of the month immediately after 7:30 Mass in room 239/240 of the New Life Center. We encourage all Cursillistas to come join us at one of the *Ultreyas* and strengthen yourselves for the journey with witness talks, grouping and prayer. For more information, call Lisa or Todd Wilson at (704)-543-9764.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month in the Belmont Abbey basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *A solemn celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday* will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. March 30. All are invited to come for a Divine Mercy holy hour and Benediction at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call Melissa Miller at (336) 274-6520 ext. 310.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church will offer a free *Estate Planning Seminar* April 22. A complimentary dinner will also be served. This seminar is offered in conjunction with the Diocese of Charlotte. Information on wills, trusts and overall estate planning will be presented by Judy Smith, director of planned giving for the diocese, and Kevin Rockford, attorney with Rockford and Eckard, P.A. Contact Ann Marie at (336) 869-7739 to register.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, will host a *Craft Night* in Holy Family hall April 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Please bring a craft to work on and a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. For more information, call Judy Massengill at (828) 327-3132.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — *Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday* at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. March 30. All are invited to come for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song 3-4 p.m. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — *Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday* at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., March 30. Eucharistic adoration will be held at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 p.m. and Benediction at 4:45 p.m. All are welcome to attend any or all of the events. For more information, call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmooore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmooore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

### Episcopal calendar

March 23 (11 a.m.)  
Easter Sunday Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 29 (10 a.m.)  
Diaconate Ordination of  
Benjamin A. Roberts  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 30 (9:30 a.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church,  
Albemarle

March 31 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

## Finger-sized fetus



CNS PHOTO BY BRUNO DOMINGOS, REUTERS

Father Antonio holds a model of a fetus during an interview with Reuters at a Catholic church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 11. The fetuses, manufactured by the Brazilian bishops' conference for their campaign against abortion, will be distributed at churches in Rio de Janeiro and will be carried to the altar during Mass as anti-abortion videos are shown on a screen.

### ATTENTION READERS

Due to the Easter holiday, The Catholic News & Herald will not publish next Friday, March 28. Our next issue will be Friday, April 4.

*We wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter.*



## Minding their money



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

With an assist from Carla Beck (left), Hayesville High School English teacher, sophomores from the school's civics class learn financial language during the financial fitness fair in Hayesville March 17.

## Fair offers tips, advice on financial literacy

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — Elsewhere on March 17 the "wearin' of the green" celebrated St. Patrick. In the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville, "green" was all about financial literacy.

The day's financial fitness fair was a collaborative effort of Catholic Social Services' Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, Internal Revenue Service, several financial institutions and nonprofits such as the Hinton Rural Life Center.

"Last year was the year of financial fitness for Cooperative Extension, which has the most fantastic programs for families and individuals," said Claudie Burchfield, OEO's director. "We really wanted to partner with them on financial fitness."

"We had a financial fitness fair in Robbinsville at the Graham County Public Library, and it was well received," she said, adding another will be planned in Murphy for April or May.

The fairs' main goal, Burchfield said, "is to get the word out about our lab, (and for people to) learn about financial services, how to save money, that there's help available to clear up bad debt, to start saving."

She added that help with bad debt doesn't mean lending money; rather, it involves things like budgeting and saving money.

The "lab" she mentioned is OEO's financial literacy lab, open Tuesdays and Thursdays at the OEO office in Murphy. There, people can use laptop computers to access their credit reports, learn budgeting and ways to clear up bad debt, and other information that could help improve their financial situations.

Visitors to the fair, including a civics class from Hayesville High School, saw ways to improve and restore credit and clear up bad debt; they got savvy budgeting ideas and information about wise tax-refund use, timely tax filing, identity theft, banking services and

affordable housing opportunities.

Pam Staton, family and consumer education agent with the N.C. Cooperative Extension, offered materials on budgeting, debt reduction and starting savings programs.

Many people, she said, "just live for today. They don't think to pay themselves first, which is what a savings account is."

Clyde McCoy, a nutrition education program assistant with the N.C. Cooperative Extension, offered tips on saving money in other ways, like smart grocery shopping.

McCoy's materials included how to budget for food purchases and ways to buy more economically.

"It's basic to people of my generation, but the younger generation doesn't know how to do that," McCoy said. "Their moms and dads were too busy to teach them, and then fast food came along."

Yet another way to save is through energy efficiency. Jason Smith of Blue Ridge Mountain Electrical Membership Corp. brightened things up as he showed how compact fluorescent bulbs use less than one-quarter the energy of 60-watt standard bulbs. A compact fluorescent bulb costs \$3 to \$5 each but lasts about nine years with normal use.

Penny Hane of the Hinton Rural Life Center near Hayesville had plenty of information on affordable housing opportunities through the center's "Mutual Self-Help Housing," similar to Habitat for Humanity.

Vicki Hamond, of the IRS's Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication Office in Charlotte, told visitors about some IRS assistance.

Members of the State Employees Credit Union and area banks were on hand to explain programs and services.

The fair also had an exhibit from Samaritan's Promise, which provides emergency assistance such as personal hygiene items. OEO conceived the idea of Samaritan's Promise and serves on its steering committee.

## Knights program honors Our Lady of Charity

### Icon to travel throughout North Carolina

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

KANNAPOLIS — An icon of Our Lady of Charity that was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI is currently on display at St. Joseph Church.

The framed print is one of three icons currently traveling throughout North Carolina as part of the yearlong Marian Hour of Prayer program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

In a letter to fellow Knights, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson reminded his brothers that charity is the first principle of their organization.

"This Marian prayer program with an image of Our Lady of Charity, is a graced opportunity to reflect on the virtue of charity and to make more widely known the beautiful teaching of 'Deus Caritas Est' ('God is Love'), in which Pope Benedict XVI explores the true nature of charity, based on love of God and love of neighbor," he said.

Since its arrival at St. Joseph Church Feb. 18, the image of Our Lady of Charity has been part of nearly 20 different prayer services and has been visited by more than 2,000 people.

Typically, each council hosts the icon for a couple of weeks before passing it on to the next parish. The icon's stay at St. Joseph Church was longer than usual because of Lent.

As part of the Marian Hour of Prayer program, special prayers for Pope Benedict will be offered during services throughout the year.

"At the conclusion of the yearlong prayer program, a 'spiritual bouquet' will be presented to the pope, including a report on the total number of prayer services that were held and the approximate number of participants," Anderson said.

A Mass will be celebrated in honor of Our Lady of Charity at St. Joseph Church on Saturday, April 5, at 4 p.m. Following the Mass, the icon will be moved to St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.



COURTESY IMAGE

A portrait of Our Lady of Charity hangs in St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis.

### Our Lady of Charity

The apparition of Our Lady of Charity took place in Cuba around the year 1600. Three boys from the area now known as El Cobre, were sent to gather salt to preserve the town's meat supply.

As the boys made their way across the bay, they encountered a violent storm. When the storm calmed they saw something floating in the water, a wooden board carrying a statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus.

On the board was an inscription, "Yo soy la Virgen de la Caridad" ("I am the Virgin of Charity"). After that, a shrine was erected in her honor and devotion to Our Lady of Charity spread throughout Cuba.

### WHAT IS AN ICON?

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## FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours the balsam into the oil during the consecration of the chrism during the Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 18. Also pictured are (from left): Father Christopher Roux, transitional Deacon Brandon Jones and seminarian Paul McNulty.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Priests participate in the consecration of the chrism during the Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 18. Pictured are (from left): Father Julio Dominguez, Father Alejandro Ayala, Father Robert Conway, Father James Collins and Father James Byer.

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# Oils consecrated, priests renew vows at chrism Mass

CHRISM, from page 1

attended the chrism Mass, during which priests recommit themselves to their vocational ministry.

Bishop Jugis spoke on the three offices of the priesthood — governing, sanctifying and teaching — and encouraged the priests to approach each office with a “spirit of self-renunciation.”

“Self-renunciation is the way of Jesus, and it was in that spirit of sacrifice joyfully accepted that we first promised to serve, and in that same spirit that we promise again today,” he said.

He called on the priests to deny their own wills and become slaves for the Lord.

“A slave has no will of his own, but only does the will of his master,” said Bishop Jugis.

“Perhaps we know people in ministry who have great ambition; but are they ambitious for themselves or are they ambitious for Christ?” he asked.

The chrism Mass is one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses,

celebrated in every Catholic diocese on Holy Thursday. If celebration of the Mass is not possible on Holy Thursday, it may be celebrated earlier in the week, as it is in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During the Mass, the bishop blesses the oils to be used in administering the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Bishop Jugis, along with concelebrants Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin; Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar; Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral; and other clergy of the diocese, gathered with about 90 priests, permanent deacons and seminarians of the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith whom they serve.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of their dedication as ministers of Christ, striving to be more like Christ and being faithful to their sacred ministry.

Later in the Mass, Bishop Jugis blessed the three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests returned to their parishes, rededicated in spiritual union with the diocesan faithful.

### MORE PICS ONLINE

For more pictures of the chrism Mass, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



## St. Matthew Catholic Church presents A Symposium on St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the Year of St. Paul. In preparation for this anniversary year we will be presenting the following talks:

Apr. 3: “The Pope Speaks... ‘Honoring Paul’” - Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, will focus on Pope Benedict's encyclical “Spe Salvi” (Saved by Hope) and its connection to St. Paul's thought.

Apr. 24: “A Church Built on Gifts and Propelled by the Spirit” - Susan Brady, MA, Biblical Studies, Providence College. For over 35 years she has taught high school youth and adults, lectured in churches of many denominations, given retreats, and taught week-long summer seminars on some aspect of the Bible.

May 15: “Greeting the Greeks; Hailing the Hellenists” - Watching Paul as he engaged ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Fr. Christopher Schreck, S.T.B., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; S.S.I. (Licentiate in Sacred Scripture), Pontifical Biblical Institute; Ph.D. S.T.D., Catholic University of Leuven; past Chair, Dept. of Sacred Scripture, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; author of many articles published in academic journals. Fr. Schreck brings great insight into the New Testament and, specifically, St. Paul.

All programs are 7-8:30pm in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center.

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Please join us for any or all of these spiritually enriching presentations. All are welcome!



## FROM THE COVER

# Parishioners celebrate church's 60th anniversary

ST. JOSEPH, from page 1

Asian and Hispanic and others. But it all began with four Europeans.

"In the 1880s, three Englishmen and one Irish woman came to town and started the first Catholic church," said Father Davis.

The three English officers — Cpt. Charles St. Clair Winn, Cpt. Slingsby Wainman and Cpt. Basil John Fisher — came to Asheboro seeking their fortunes in gold mining. Winn and Wainman were Catholics and wanted to have Mass celebrated in Asheboro. Mrs. Barton, an Irish immigrant, offered a former law office for use as a chapel.

By 1888, visiting priests were celebrating Mass for the small community. But when the two officers died and Mrs. Barton left town, the Catholic community in Asheboro temporarily dissolved.

Resurgence in the Catholic community began in the 1930s as Yankees started migrating south. Parishioner Virginia King said it was 1943 when she and 12 other Catholics "started to revitalize the community."

But they still did not have a permanent location for Mass.

"We had to go to High Point for Mass," she said. "We even had Mass at the city hall for a while."

Other locations included a roving railroad car and private homes. Before he became the first bishop of Charlotte, then-Father Michael J. Begley was among the priests from High Point celebrating Mass around Asheboro.

Then in 1947, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh purchased land in Asheboro with a large house on the property — the downstairs was used for the church, the upstairs for the rectory. The first Mass was celebrated at midnight on Christmas Day, 1947.

St. Joseph Church was established March 15, 1948, and formally dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh four days later.

In 1954, a brick structure was built next door. A new rectory and second-floor addition were added in 1978.

Father Tustin was serving in Canada in 1982 when he asked St. Joseph for intercessory prayers to help with his

severe arthritis. Immediately healed, as a response Father Tustin made a private prayer to God: "If you want me to be assigned to any parish named St. Joseph, I'm willing to do that."

A year later, in the summer of 1983, Father Tustin found himself as pastor at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, where he remained until the summer of 1993.

"Asheboro was a much smaller town back then," he said. "The parish consisted of about 150 families and many bills. Little by little, we were able to gather enough funds to build an addition, which gave the church more room."

The construction took place in the early 1990s, when the church and rectory were connected.

"Today we have 44 acres of land," said Father Davis.

The new property, in the northern section of the city, is ideal for "the construction of our facilities and the expansion of our parish and its programs," said Father Davis, in a 2007 letter to parishioners.

"We're getting ready to build, and all because of those (original) four people who wanted a place to worship their God," said Father Davis.

The parish now has a Knights of Columbus council, a Ladies Guild and numerous ministries. The parish includes a growing Hispanic population, with a Spanish-language youth group and choir.

Despite the parish's growth, some parishioners still like the church's small community feel.

"I just love St. Joseph Church," said Arlene Hayler, a parishioner of 32 years. "It is a small parish, which reminds me of the small parish we came from in Iowa."

Parishioner Bob O'Brien, who remembers Father Tustin's expansion efforts, credits the priest and his successors.

"Father Joseph Mack, who followed Father Tustin, was a good pastor, as is Father Davis. They have all worked to bring the Anglo and Hispanic communities together," said O'Brien.

"We look back to the past, which was wonderful, even as we look forward to a bright new future filled with first Communion, confirmations and marriages of parishioners who will celebrate the next 60 years," said Father Davis.

*Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.*



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

A multicultural choir performs during the bilingual Mass celebrating the 60th anniversary of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro March 15.

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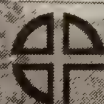
PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Father Christopher Davis, pastor, celebrates Mass with Oblate Father Joseph Tustin, former pastor, during the 60th anniversary celebration of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro March 15.

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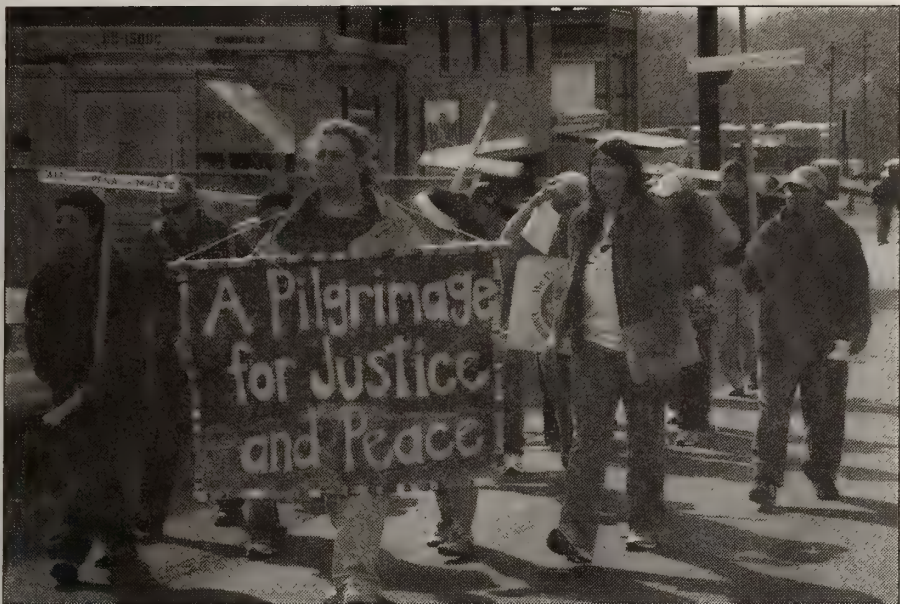


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Participants of the 2008 Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace march in front of a Case Farms poultry processing plant in Morganton March 17. A prayer service was held outside the plant to raise awareness of unjust working conditions in the poultry industry.

## Pilgrims hope to better conditions for immigrants

POULTRY, from page 1

CITCA is a faith-based movement dedicated to changing U.S. government policies that contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Carolina-based organization focuses on issues connecting the Southeast with Latin America.

Each year during Holy Week, members of CITCA travel throughout North Carolina, raising awareness of social justice issues. The event was first organized 22 years ago in response to the injustices of the Contra War in Nicaragua. This year, the themes of the pilgrimage were immigration, trade policies and family unity.

Francisco Risso, a St. Charles Borromeo Church parishioner and one of the organizers of the walk in Morganton, said the goal is to change the industry to make it more just.

"There is a lot of injustice that

happens at Case Farms and a lot of other work places in the county. In a spiritual sense, what we are calling for is a conversion — a conversion of the workplace and a conversion of ourselves," he said.

Gail Phares, a founding member of CITCA and parishioner of St. Frances of Assisi Church in Raleigh, said improving immigrant worker conditions is "one of the most urgent justice issues of our time."

She said she is inspired by the description of the last judgment in Matthew 26: 31-46 and the concept that we will be judged by how we treat the poorest of the poor.

"As people of faith, as you see this, how can you not take action?" asked Phares.

Deacon Edward Konarski of St. Charles Borromeo Church said the issue concerning unjust worker conditions is particularly visible in Morganton.

"In a small town like this, you hear it more and see it more. It's easier to raise awareness of the issue because people see it in their daily lives," he said.

Among the parishioners from St. Charles Borromeo Church who participated in the walk were several former poultry plant workers.

The group from CITCA, led by Phares and consisting of 10 core walkers, started their pilgrimage at St. Eugene Church in Asheville, where more than 300 people participated in a walk on Palm Sunday, March 16.

From there, the core group traveled across the state to Morganton, Hickory, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Durham and ended in Raleigh.

The final prayer service took place in front of the state capital on Good Friday, March 21, where Bishop Emeritus F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh led the participants in the Stations of the Cross.

"We can't remain ignorant of these important social and human rights issues," said Deacon Konarski. "As the Body of Christ, we need to work to bring about peace and justice. This is one way that we can give witness to that teaching."

## Helping people of 'great value'

Training course tackles immigrant abuses, legal issues

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The young mother of two had been abused. An undocumented immigrant from Mexico, she was afraid to report the abuse to police.

Had she done so, her abuser might have been arrested and prosecuted; rather, he remained free to abuse again. The woman could have been eligible for a U visa, allowing her and her children to remain in this country.

Jesuit Brother Ricardo Greeley, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the diocese's Albemarle Vicariate, felt frustrated that he didn't know how to help the woman and her children.

He was one of about 40 people who attended the "VAWA/U Immigration Law Training: ICE Raids and Immigrants' Rights" training held at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville March 12-13.

"I need some knowledge, some options for people's rights," Brother Greeley said. "I need the basics so that I can tell people where to get the help they need, where to find legal aid, particularly women and children."

Kristen Lambertin, immigration specialist with the Asheville Legal Migration Assistance Program of Catholic Social Service's Western Regional Office, also wanted more information about the Violence Against Woman Act (VAWA) and U visas.

"We do family-based immigration, but we don't do VAWA- and U-based immigration," she said. "We're looking at expanding our services."

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) and CSS's Western Regional Office sponsored the workshop for Catholic Charities staff and others from community-based organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) (tax-exempt) status. Attorneys and legal worker staff of private law offices also attended.

CLINIC attorney Peggy Gleason and Catholic Charities attorney Caitlin Brazill presented the two-day course, which focused on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), concerns about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, and rights and defenses available to immigrants, including T and U visas.

T and U visas were created by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of October 2000. T visas are to protect women, children and men who are the victims of human trafficking. Examples of this are "forced labor, domestic servitude, debt bondage, and forced commercial sexual exploitation."

U visas are available for immigrants who have been victims of crime and are willing to help with the prosecution of those crimes. They grant the applicant and his or her family temporary nonimmigrant status for up to four years, which allows the person to work.

There is the possibility that, after three years, the person could apply for permanent residency, although no regulations are currently in place for this. The Department of Homeland Security has yet to promulgate the regulations.

Asheville Police Capt. Tim Splain, head of the criminal investigation department, handles requests



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Angélica Reza Wind, bilingual court advocate in Asheville, and Jesuit Brother Ricardo Greeley, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Albemarle Vicariate, chat during the CLINIC workshop at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville March 13.

for information that could lead to someone obtaining a U visa. The cases he's responded to have involved domestic violence.

"Our belief is that everyone should be afforded protection under the law, whether they're here legally or not," Splain said. "We don't want to alienate a population that has great value."

"For us, somebody's ethnicity, where they're from, is not our business. What we don't want to happen is what we hear from other jurisdictions — stopping people because of what they look like," he said. "If they're on U.S. soil, they're protected by the U.S. Constitution."

Jesuit Father Francis Reese and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege work with the Mexican community at Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville. Like Brother Greeley, they wanted to know more about legal resources that could help immigrants.

"By learning more about what we can do and can't do, we know where to get information," Sister Verstege said.

Sister Verstege teaches reading and religious education to Hispanic children during the summer. She and two volunteers, Maggie Peacock and Sandy List, work with 11 immigrant women who meet three days a week.

Sister Verstege and Peacock teach English. List, a nurse practitioner, offers health and hygiene education and helps the women seeking medical needs.

There's also a weekly cooking class, in which Sister Verstege teaches the women how to prepare American foods.

Both Sister Verstege and Father Reese visit the local jail to meet with immigrants who've been arrested.

"You try to visit them in jail and then be the liaison with the families," Father Reese said.

He recalled Scripture, especially Matthew 25:31-46, which addresses works of mercy, such as visiting those in prison. "We want them to know the church is walking with them," Father Reese said.

"What our role is, is to support, to be liaison," Sister Verstege said.

"(The workshop) has piqued my interest," she added. "We have a growing population of immigrant children in schools, whether born in Mexico or elsewhere. What's going to happen to them? I need to know more about that."



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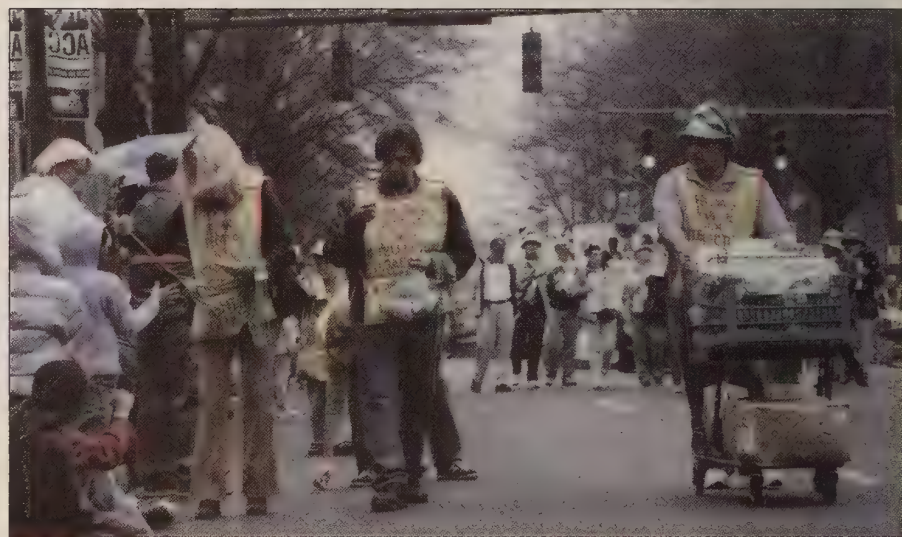
PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: St. Mark School in Huntersville. Below: St. Ann School in Charlotte.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Knights of Columbus lead the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade with members of the U.S. Marine Corps.  
Below: Volunteers with the Knights of Columbus hand out green beads along the parade route.



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

# ate in Charlotte St. Patricks' Day Parade, March 15

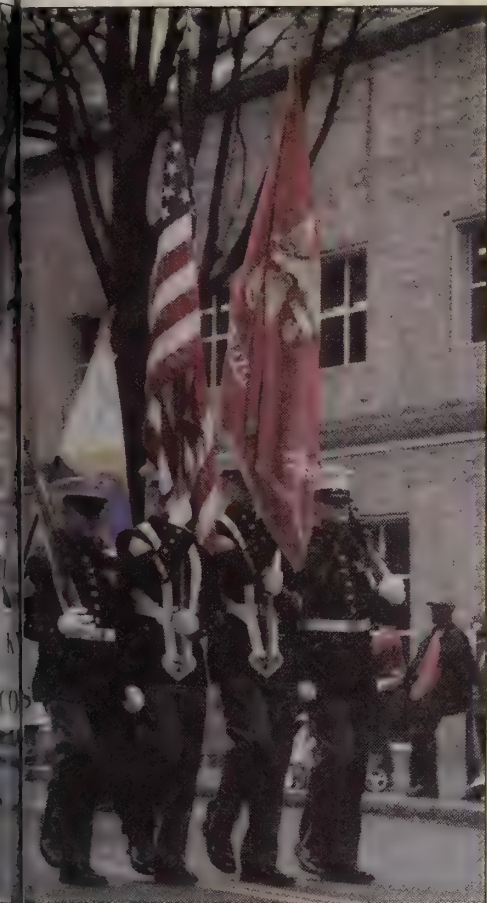


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Girls in costumes from St. Patrick School in Charlotte.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians St. Brigid Division 1 in Charlotte. Below: Ancient Order of Hibernians Mecklenburg Division 1 in Charlotte.

## MORE PICS ONLINE

Many more photographs from the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte March 15 are available at [www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html).



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. Matthew School in Charlotte.

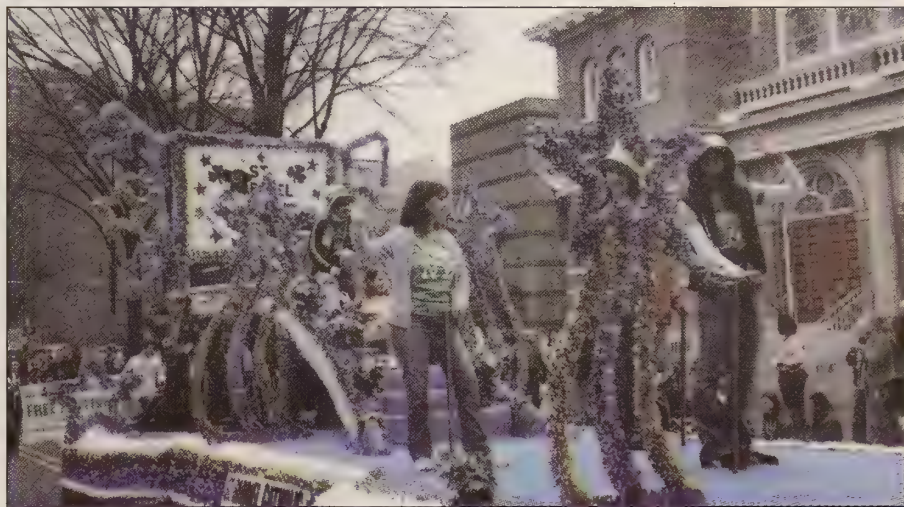


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. Gabriel School in Charlotte.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Story of American nun killed in Brazil kept alive by biographers

REVIEWED BY REGINA LINSKEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In their biographies of Ohio native Sister Dorothy Stang, Sister Roseanne Murphy ("Martyr of the Amazon") and Binka Le Breton ("The Greatest Gift") tell the story of a modern-day missionary who spent most of her life protecting poor farmers and working for justice in the Wild West of Brazil's Amazon, where money and guns often prevailed.

Both authors paid attention to their description of the early days and formation of Sister Dorothy, whom many lovingly called Dot.

One of nine children, Dot was born to devout Catholic parents and grew up on a farm outside Dayton. Her parents were devout not just in the daily Mass, evening rosaries or parish leadership sense of the word.

They also opened their home to people who needed a hand getting back on their feet. The children absorbed this active faith of their family as exemplified by their parents.

The example the parents set seemed to work: The younger twins became priests and Sister Dorothy, motivated by a desire to be a missionary in China, entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Cincinnati at age 17 with her best friend, Joan Krimm, a main character in Sister Dorothy's life.

Eventually, after some other assignments, Sister Dorothy was called to Brazil. Here, in this vastly undeveloped South American country so far from home, she saw incredible poverty, injustice and environmental destruction.

She taught poor Brazilian migrant families how to see these things, organize

and find their voice. She also taught them how to see God in their lives and live the Gospel. Of course, government officials and wealthy landowners did not like this radical American nun, or her newly aware small faith communities. From this, the land wars began.

Le Breton devotes a chapter to Sister Dorothy's creation spirituality and how she used it to teach the families fearful of the Amazon how to love, respect and carefully cultivate its land. This is particularly interesting in light of Pope Benedict XVI's frequent remarks on God, creation and the environment.

Both books are at times a bit dry, as biographies can be. But the testimony of friends and family, and the facts, dates and documents are appreciated by a reader using the books for more than enjoyable reading.

These stories do not embellish the truth. Instead, they say: This was the life and mission of Sister Dorothy; this is how an American girl from a farm became a martyr in Brazil's jungles.

Le Breton's biography is a bit more dramatic than Sister Murphy's book, as she takes more liberties using color describing Sister Dorothy's adventures. Sister Murphy is also a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

In the end, the deadly combination of money and guns finished a chapter in Sister Dorothy's life, but not necessarily her mission.

Though she was murdered on a dirt road in her beloved Amazon jungle, Sister Dorothy remains alive in her creation theology and fight for justice through Le Breton's and Sister Roseanne's books.

Linskey is assistant international editor at Catholic News Service.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 30, 2008

March 30, Second Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
- 2) 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Gospel: John 20:19-31

### Recognizing Jesus overcomes our doubts, bolsters faith

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was happy my son telephoned today. He was just "checking in" to say hello, he said.

We chatted only briefly. Neither of us had anything major to report, but I was very glad to hear his voice, and after we hung up I had a sense of joy.

I hadn't heard from my son in three weeks, which isn't so long, but he usually is in touch about once a week, so I was wondering if he was OK. In fact, I was pretty sure nothing was amiss, but there are just enough trying circumstances in his life that I had some doubts.

Speaking to him allayed my fears, giving way to the joy of knowing all was well. I had been "pretty sure" before, but now I was certain.

Somehow, "pretty sure" just doesn't carry the same sense of exultation that "sure" does.

So it goes with faith. By definition it has a flip side: doubt.

In this weekend's readings, Peter explains that doubt creates a drag on our sense of joy for the salvation we will receive through Jesus. Our human life is a test, he suggests, and it carries discomfort. But in order to find salvation, we must constantly seek Jesus' presence through faith.

When we identify with Thomas in the Gospel passage, we know that Jesus will offer us moments to touch him. We have these moments when we experience acts of care, mercy, or even sacrifice.

Recognizing Jesus in such moments bolsters our faith in salvation by giving us a taste of heaven.

When my son called, he didn't tell me he had resolved any problems, but the positive tenor of his conversation showed his trust in God's providence. Choosing to share it with me restored my belief in Jesus being present to both of us.

At such a time, Peter notes, "Although you have not seen him you love him."

Those moments provide what Peter calls "genuineness of your faith" — something on which to hang our belief against occasions when worldliness drags doubt back into our human experience.

#### Questions:

What causes you to have doubts about salvation through Christ? What was a recent experience you had of "touching" Jesus? How did it affect your doubt?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith ..." (1 Peter 1:8bc to 9a).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 23-MARCH 29

**Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord)**, Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday)**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday)**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday)**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday)**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday)**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30-APRIL 5

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday)**, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31; **Monday (The Annunciation of the Lord)**, Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday**, Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7b-15; **Wednesday**, Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday**, Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday**, Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21.

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Thurs., April 24th - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

9 am to 3:30 pm:

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Rev. Joseph J. Lash	1999
Rev. Samuel Orlando	2003

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# Controversy on campus

## Bishop criticizes production of 'The Vagina Monologues' at Notre Dame

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS) — The bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend has criticized the University of Notre Dame for once again allowing an on-campus production of "The Vagina Monologues," a play that explicitly discusses women's sexuality.

In a March 12 statement, Bishop John M. D'Arcy reiterated his objections to the play being performed at Notre Dame as it has been in previous years, calling it "an affront to human dignity."

The bishop noted that this year's production at the university was even more offensive because performances were scheduled on Monday and Tuesday of Easter week.

The play, based on interviews with numerous women, is a series of monologues in which women discuss their sexual experiences, including rape and other forms of violence against them.

For the 10th year in a row, college campuses across the country have sponsored limited productions of the play with students reading the script. The shows are put on to benefit a campaign called V-Day, which raises money for organizations working to stop violence against women and girls.

For the past several years, the staging of the play at several Catholic universities has brought criticism from

those who say the play is inappropriate for a Catholic setting.

The play is usually staged around Valentine's Day but performances were extended to March 30 this year. In noting the Notre Dame performances scheduled for March 24 and 25, Bishop D'Arcy said they would occur during the "holiest time of the church year."

"Notre Dame has a long and blessed tradition of liturgical excellence, a tradition both theoretical and practical and eminently pastoral and prayerful," he said.

"Surely Notre Dame will not prefer or even seem to prefer the requirements of the V-Day campaign to the proper observance of Easter," he said.

The bishop said he and Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, had several discussions about hosting the play on campus.

"I am grateful to Father Jenkins for the extensive time he has put into our conversation and correspondence on these matters over the last two months," the bishop said.

He said the priest told him that the way the school is presenting the play "is consistent with the identity of a Catholic university."

It will be in an academic building, there will be no fundraising effort and it

will be followed by a panel discussion presenting the Catholic perspective.

Father Jenkins compared the play with books the students read in class by authors who espouse ideas contrary to Catholic teaching.

"As bishop of this historic diocese, entrusted with the spiritual welfare of all those who live within its borders, including the students at our beloved Notre Dame, I believe that, once again, I must publicly and respectfully disagree with Father Jenkins' decision," Bishop D'Arcy said.

"I am convinced that permitting performances of 'The Vagina Monologues' is not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university and not comparable to the long-accepted academic tradition through which a wide variety of authors are read and discussed in classes at Notre Dame and in all institutions of higher learning," he added.

Bishop D'Arcy said book discussions do not compare with watching a play because after a book or play is read in class, the student expects it to be discussed and critiqued.

"This is not so when one attends the performance of a play," he said, adding "Father Jenkins' attempt to give the performances of this play an academic quality seems deficient."

He also said the performances, even without fundraising, advance the V-Day campaign, which he said has an agenda that is "directly opposed to the dignity of the human person and is antithetical to Catholic teaching."

In a March 10 statement, Father Jenkins said he was "well aware that the performance of this play will upset many."

He noted that it was painful for him that Bishop D'Arcy did not approve of his decision and that some Notre Dame alumni "see the performance of this play on campus as contrary to



CNS PHOTO COURTESY TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., said in a recent statement that he has repeatedly urged the University of Notre Dame to prohibit campus performances of "The Vagina Monologues," a play that explicitly discusses women's sexuality. The bishop is pictured in an undated file photo.

our Catholic mission."

He also pointed out that others are "upset at the restrictions on this performance."

"My decision on this matter arises from a conviction that it is an indispensable part of the mission of a Catholic university to provide a forum in which multiple viewpoints are debated in reasoned and respectful exchange — always in dialogue with faith and the Catholic tradition — even around highly controversial topics," Father Jenkins said.

He added that Notre Dame's policy on events that stir controversy "rests on the conviction that truth will emerge from reasoned consideration of issues in dialogue with faith, and that we will educate Catholic leaders not by insulating our students from controversial views, but by engaging these views energetically, in light of Catholic teachings."

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**ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?**

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



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# Prayers for life



PHOTOS BY KATIE MOORE

*Pro-life supporters (above), including employees of the Diocese of Charlotte, take part in a silent vigil outside the Family Reproductive Health Clinic in Charlotte March 13. The gathering was part of the 40 Days for Life campaign.*

*David Bereit (below), national campaign director for 40 Days for Life, talks to pro-lifers in front of the health clinic after the vigil March 13. Bereit, along with his wife Margaret and their two children, travels the country giving motivational*

*talks to pro-life groups.*

*Bereit started 40 Days for Life in College Station, Texas in 2004. Since then, it has spread to 139 cities across the United States.*

*This is the third time Charlotte has participated in a 40 Days for Life campaign.*



## Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [frajm@st-joseph.cc](mailto:frajm@st-joseph.cc)

## Principal

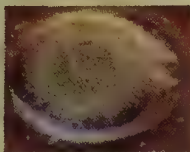
St. Anne Catholic School in Rock Hill, SC seeks candidates for principal, starting date as soon as possible (no later than June 2, 2008). Qualifications—practicing Catholic with dynamic leadership skills, valid educational certification, master's degree in educational administration or equivalent, and evidence of successful teaching experience. Prior experience in school administration and Catholic school marketing preferred. St. Anne School is PK-8 with 300 students. Visit our web site -[www.stanneschool.com](http://www.stanneschool.com)



Send letter of interest, resume and statement of philosophy on education to:  
Principal Search Committee, David Grider, School Board President, 1698 Bird Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730



# The Son of God began His human existence at conception!



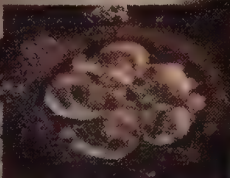
The eternal Son of God did not begin His existence as a human being at His birth at Bethlehem.

**Single Cell Embryo** *The Word became Flesh at the Annunciation, when the Virgin Mary is told that she has been chosen to be the Mother of the Savior and gives her consent. Therefore the Son of God began His human existence as a **single-cell embryo**.*

Scripture says that after the Annunciation, Mary went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Experts say it would have taken two to three days for Mary to reach Elizabeth. Therefore, Jesus likely had not yet implanted in Mary's womb when his presence caused John to stir in Elizabeth's womb:

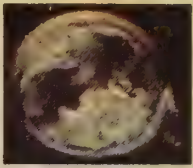
**"The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby in my womb leapt for joy."** — Luke 1:44.

Like every human being, this is what Jesus looked like **three days** after conception.



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5-7 Day Embryo



4 weeks

How long is it possible for believers, who meditate on the unborn child who was God, not to see that unborn children are made in God's image?

Is it likely that those who ponder that our Almighty Protector was a baby in the womb will fail to see that babies in the womb merit protection?



6 weeks



7 weeks

Would it happen that Christians, who acknowledge that their Lord and Brother was an embryo and a fetus, will fail to see that every embryo and fetus is a brother and sister in the Lord?

*God was once an unborn child.  
Therefore every unborn child  
is in some fashion  
united with God.*



*"By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself with every human being."*

-Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

Produced by Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities  
215 Centennial Mall South, Ste. 310, Lincoln, NE 68508  
[www.nebcathcon.org/bpppla.htm](http://www.nebcathcon.org/bpppla.htm)

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Special thanks to: Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life, for his reflections on the Annunciation; and Dr. David Prentice for his human embryo pictures.

This ad published by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte

## The Word Became Flesh





# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## 'Jesus is Risen'

*Easter proclamation should guide our lives throughout the year*

Jesus is risen from the dead! This is the joyful Good News we proclaim at Easter.

How do we proclaim the Good News of Jesus' resurrection? We proclaim it not only by word, but especially by the holiness of our lives.

Every aspect of our lives must demonstrate to others that the Risen Lord lives in us and has given us each a new life. Everyone must be able to see that the Risen Lord has transformed us interiorly, and that now we live no longer for ourselves but for him.

On Palm Sunday we began the special journey of Holy Week, walking with the Lord on his way of agony, pain, suffering, crucifixion and death. The reading of the account of the Lord's passion on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday draws us into the Lord's way of the cross.

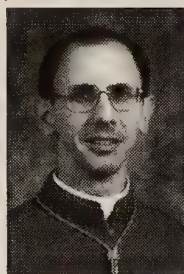
We accompany Jesus through each moment of his suffering, and as a result we grow closer to him. The way of sorrow and suffering turns into the glory of resurrection at Easter, and we continue to accompany Jesus as he appears to his disciples and shows them the marks of crucifixion on his body.

Spending time with Christ during these holy days inevitably means that we become more like him. The image of Christ, crucified and risen, grows within us and we become more Christlike.

Through our friendship with Christ we acquire the heart of Christ, and this is a heart which desires to bring his love to the world. He makes us compassionate toward others, as he had compassion for the poor and needy, the hungry, the sick and suffering, the sorrowing.

### From the Bishop

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS



Because he lives in us, we truly are able to extend Christ's love and mercy to others. He lives in us and impels us to have compassion for our brothers and sisters. This love, which we show to others, is ultimately the most beautiful fruit of our friendship with Jesus.

The message of proclaiming the Risen Lord by the holiness of our lives is also the theme of our diocesan Eucharistic Congress this year, which will be held Oct. 3-4 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

The congress occurs during the special jubilee year to honor the anniversary of the birth of St. Paul the Apostle. The congress theme has been chosen appropriately to reflect the life and mission of St. Paul: "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim."

The proclamation that we hear at church during Easter — "Jesus is Risen" — is also meant to be proclaimed continuously by our lives. Christ lives in us because of our baptism and our reception of the sacraments.

It is Christ whom we proclaim this Easter through the holiness of our lives and through good works of charity done for our neighbors.

## Easter, and starting over

Golfers — hackers, not pros — have the right idea. Mess up a shot and you can declare a "mulligan," a do-over. That would be mighty handy when it comes to your family, friends, work and on and on.

Of course, Easter isn't really "starting over." It's more fixing what was messed up and making it as it was meant to be in the first place.

So how can you fix what you've messed up? How can you make things as they were meant to be in the first place? A few suggestions:

— Never underestimate the power of "I'm sorry," both sacramentally (in confession) and socially (between you and others).

Neither is easy, because we hate to admit to ourselves that we are wrong and we really hate admitting that to others.

— Accept another's "I'm sorry" graciously. Just as God offers you grace

### Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS  
CNS COLUMNISTS



when you celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, you can gracefully receive another person's admission of guilt and his or her asking for forgiveness.

This can be challenging, too, because it just feels so darned good to say, "Yes, I forgive you, but ...," and then get in a few shots, digs, pointed comments. ("I told you so" is an all-time favorite.)

— Create an atmosphere in your home, in your marriage that makes it easier to ask and to offer forgiveness.

## Resurrecting our faith

*Easter message should compel us to action*

On the day of Christ's resurrection, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to the village of Emmaus. It had been three days since the crucifixion of their master. And they were grieving.

Along the way they were joined by a man who eased their sadness as he explained the Scriptures to them concerning the Messiah. And although they did not recognize who he was, they knew they were in the presence of holiness. So they urged him to stay with them.

That evening while seated around the table, this very unique man took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Immediately their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Jesus in their midst. Then he vanished.

They exclaimed, "Were not our hearts burning ... while he was opening the Scriptures to us?"

They returned to Jerusalem and shared with the apostles how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

What a wonderful story! And what priceless lessons are contained in it!

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, there are sad roads we too must walk. Sometimes it seems like nearly the whole world is confused and sad. But confusion and sadness are most often of our doing.

Like the Emmaus disciples, we need to allow the Lord to open our minds and hearts to the wisdom and joy contained in Scripture. The word of God is eternally rich.

But if we come to sacred Scripture full of ourselves, we leave no room for Jesus to explain its true meaning for us and our world.

For instance, how can we honestly read Jesus' instructions in Matthew's Gospel to feed the hungry and not be committed to ending global hunger and poverty?

How is it possible to hear in that same passage our Lord's teaching to welcome strangers, and yet possess disdain for undocumented workers?

How? Want only the best for each other.

Be aware that you play a central role in helping those loved ones become better people and they have the same responsibility toward you. Love builds them — and you — up. Grudges and resentment do the opposite.

— Be patient with yourself. God, who is all-knowing, hasn't given up on you. So you, who are not all-knowing, would be more than a little foolish to throw in the towel with "I'll never ...," "I just can't ..." or "There's no way I'm going to ..."

Curb your tongue. Quit smoking. Focus on work and get the job done. Get along with that one person who tends to drive you right up the wall! (Humility and perseverance can accomplish a lot!)

— Remember Judas and Peter. Each messed up big-time. Judas betrayed Jesus.

### Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



How can we claim that we are really listening to Christ's directive to care for the sick and those in prison, and yet refuse to urge government leaders to pass universal health care coverage and meaningful prison reform?

And how can we sincerely meditate on Jesus' command to put away the sword — "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword" — and not strive for multilateral disarmament and an end to all war?

If only we would allow Jesus to let the words of Scripture burn in our hearts like the Emmaus disciples did, how holier we would be, how better our world would be!

Why do so many Christians instead act as though evils like hunger, poverty, abortion and war are insurmountable facts of life? Has it not occurred that he who conquered sin and death can surely guide and strengthen us to transform our hurting world?

If like the Emmaus disciples we had enough faith to clearly recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread, our eucharistic gatherings would always be full of wonder and celebration.

Then we would enthusiastically go out into the world to be bread for others.

We would nourish many with the merciful, generous, just, peaceful and loving presence of Jesus. We would even become broken bread for others, working and suffering with them.

We would be the real presence of Christ to a world that is hungry for the bread of life!

Peter denied him — three times! One assumed what he did was unforgivable. The other returned to Christ and then went on to lead the early church and to sainthood.

— Realize that even though some things can't be undone — the harm you caused another or the harm that you endured because of another — you can choose to move forward and do good.

To acknowledge the past, accept the past and know that even though in some ways it may hobble you, you're not shackled to it. With God, all things are possible.

With God, Easter is possible.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine.



# Joyful traditions inspired by Easter

*We are all inheritors of Jesus' Easter joy*

When I was raising my children, I would get the same questions from them that I used to ask my grandmother: Why do we pay so much attention to eggs and rabbits and flowers and homemade bread at Easter?

My grandmother's answers always said celebrating these all came from Jesus, who died but came back to life so we could all go to heaven — if we were good, of course.

There was that special nod of her head as she shaped the dough and selected the perfect eggs to be set into her creations before they went into the oven.

That nod by my Italian grandmother — as anyone with an Italian background would know — meant that what she had spoken was absolute truth!

I did wonder when I was a youngster why Easter was not called "Resurrection," which is the event being celebrated, or "Pasch," the Jewish feast allied to the events of Jesus' last meal, death and rising from the tomb.

Later, as I studied more about language, I found that most European languages do use a word related to the Hebrew "Pasch" to describe the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In Italy, it's "Pasqua"; France, "Pasques"; Holland, "Paschen"; and Spain, "Pascua."

English-speaking countries call it the paschal season too, though the day itself is not called "Pasch."

There is a reasonable explanation for all of this.

It lies in the fact that the English language is more closely related to the German language than to what scholars call the Romance languages such as French, Italian and Spanish.

Because of this, the roots of some words can be found in terms the early Germans used.

Easter is such a word. It comes from the rising light of the day, "Eostre." When the Germans first met the early Christian missionaries, heard of Christ and his triumph over death and that life is unending, it was easier to use "Eostre," the dawn of a new day, to designate the event.

If they had introduced a strange new word — "resurrection" or "Pasch," for example — the people would not have truly understood its meaning.

The young Christian church wisely used the word "Eostre," the celebration of the renewal of life each dawn, to designate the celebration of life eternally and forever.

And so, both the German and the English words for Easter are traced back to "Eostre," the rising light of a permanent new day — Jesus rising from the dead.

Father of the Church St. Bede wrote in the eighth century that "Eostre" was also the name of a West Germanic goddess of the dawn celebrated by pre-

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



Christians at the vernal equinox.

As for eggs, an old Russian proverb says an egg "is dear on Easter Day." An artist told me once that eggs contain "the seed of life; they represent the revival of earth's fertility."

All of these customs really point out how Easter reminds us to celebrate the richness of new life that is continually in process in our earthly place.

But it is so much more.

It is a love story, the promise that in this earthly life we are not alone. We are forever linked to the Son of God, Jesus, who has given us the ultimate new life, the permanent joy of life forever, if only we choose it!

No matter what difficulties and sorrows we may have to bear, how many losses hit us, how broken we may feel, how mired in grief we may become, we are the inheritors of Jesus' Easter joy.

Good Friday began the process that blasted open the tomb; Easter Sunday made us alleluia people, capable of rejoicing and singing — no matter what darkness we may have to endure — because we are permanently celebrating the new light of such good news.

An ancient belief says, "On Easter morn the sun dances."

My grandmother agreed!

## Pope expresses hope that Easter Week, Easter rituals deepen faith

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the church's Holy Week and Easter rituals would help deepen all Catholics' conversion to Christ and their solidarity with those who suffer.

At his March 19 general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, the pope explained the meaning of the liturgies the church was to celebrate in the coming days.

The Easter triduum lets the faithful share in the mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, he said, and represents "the heart and climax of the liturgical year as well as the life of the church."

He asked the thousands of pilgrims present to use this holy period to let their lives be guided by God and to "renew our 'yes' to the divine will just as Jesus did with his sacrifice on the cross."

The moving ceremonies celebrated during Holy Week and Easter "offer us an opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian vocation," said the pope.

The liturgies are not simply a remembrance of the past, he said; they also entail a deeper reflection of and greater commitment to "today's history."

Therefore, he said, let everyone also dedicate prayers to the dramatic events and situations "that afflict many of our brothers and sisters in every part of the world."

"We know that hatred, division, violence never have the last word in history's events," he said, adding that Easter was a time to revive the great Christian hope that the "crucified Christ is risen and conquered the world."

"Love is stronger than hatred" and won the battle against death and evil; "we have to align ourselves with this triumph of love," said the pope.

People must start with Christ and work together with him in order to build a world "based on peace, justice and love," he said.

The pope also reminded everyone of the importance of confession, especially on Holy Saturday. He said the sacrament of reconciliation is an "indispensable way to purify the heart" and prepare for Easter.

"We need this inner purification, this renewal of ourselves at least once a year," he said.

During his audience, the pope received good wishes in a number of different languages because it was the feast of St. Joseph; Pope Benedict's birth name is Joseph Ratzinger.

# Catholic crucifixes

*Q. In our art history class, the question arose why crucifixes in Catholic churches usually include the figure of Christ and Protestant crosses do not. Neither the teacher nor any student could give an answer. Does it involve differences between Protestant and Catholic doctrines? (Ohio)*

A. The difference between the two types of crosses is related to different ways Christians have historically honored the humanity of Jesus and tried to portray the meaning of his saving death and resurrection. It predates by centuries the differences between Catholic and Protestant customs and beliefs.

Very early Christian art rarely included images of the cross. Since crucifixion was the Roman punishment for big-time criminals, followers of Christ didn't quite know at first how to handle the "sign" of the cross, fearing that people outside the faith would focus on its shameful aspects and miss the Christian conviction that the crucifixion of Jesus was a sign of God's infinite love for the human race.

As St. Paul wrote, Christ's death on the cross is foolishness to nonbelievers, "but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor 1:18).

The cross appeared more widely later, but during roughly the first 800 years of Christianity the passion and death of Christ were viewed in both theology and art not so much as experiences of horror and pain but as expressions of the triumph of God in Jesus Christ over suffering and death.

For example, the Fathers of the Church, recognized as among the greatest early bishops and theologians, saw the five wounds of Christ (hands, feet and side) as sources of grace, giving birth to his body, the church.

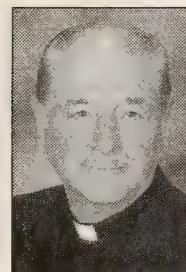
This understanding of our Lord's death explains why during those centuries Christian crosses rarely bore the image of Christ as suffering. The conviction that the death of Christ was part of the whole paschal mystery, encompassing the death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus as one cosmic event, expressed itself by predominant emphasis on the resurrection.

Interestingly, the more mystical, otherworldly vision of Christ triumphant and ruling over all creation prevalent in early Christianity largely continues to this day in the theology and iconology of the Eastern Catholic churches.

The more graphically brutal images showing Jesus with the crown of thorns

## Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



and disfigured in bloody agony have been more common since around the 10th century.

However, with today's renewed emphasis on the resurrection and its central role in the history of salvation, something like jeweled crosses and crucifixes with the body of the risen Christ are again not uncommon in Catholic churches.

No one, to my knowledge, has satisfactorily explained why Protestant churches customarily use crosses without the body of the Lord. Perhaps it was another way some 16th-century Reformation leaders distanced themselves from Roman Catholic art and iconography, which, as I explained, by that time generally portrayed on its crosses a tortured and humiliated Christ.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).





COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-graders at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte portray Jesus, Veronica and Simon during a living Stations of the Cross at St. Gabriel Church March 17. Fifth-graders also provided music and meditations for each station.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

## Reliving the sacrifice

Each year during Lent, students in schools around the Diocese of Charlotte take part in living Stations (or Way) of the Cross. Often the students act, read the prayers, provide the music and prepare the props and costumes for the performances, which allow Christians to walk with the Lord on the path toward his crucifixion.



COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh-graders from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro portray Jesus being taken down from the cross after his crucifixion during a living Stations of the Cross performance at Our Lady of Grace Church March 18. Pictured are (from left) Wolfgang Irrig, Cameron Bradford (as Jesus), Patrick Willard, and Zyven Sobkowski.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mackenzie Rowe, portraying Mary, and Michael Enos, portraying Jesus, are pictured during a living Stations of the Cross performance by eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem March 19.



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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

An Easter morning  
reflection; Is security more  
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SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 22

## CSS volunteer a finalist for national volunteer award

*William LaMay  
honored for his work  
with refugees*

CHARLOTTE — William LaMay, a volunteer with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, has been named a finalist for Catholic Charities USA's 2008 National Volunteer of the Year Award.

"Giant people cast giant shadows," said Mary Jane Bruton, community relations coordinator for Catholic Social Services in Charlotte.

"That's true, as long as there's a spotlight. The problem is that Bill LaMay doesn't stand still long enough to shine a proper light on him," she said. "He's too busy quietly devoting over 50 hours every month helping clients of our Refugee Resettlement Office adapt to life in the United States."

From the time they arrive

See VOLUNTEER, page 4

## As a servant in the mission of Christ



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Seminarian Benjamin Roberts lays prostrate before Bishop Peter J. Jugis during his ordination to the transitional diaconate at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 29. Flanking Bishop Jugis are transitional deacons Brandon Jones (at left) and Tri Vinh Truong. In the background are priests of the Diocese of Charlotte.

## Seminarian ordained to the transitional diaconate

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "It's been a long time coming," said Patti Roberts following the Mass celebrating the ordination of her son, Benjamin Roberts, to the transitional diaconate.

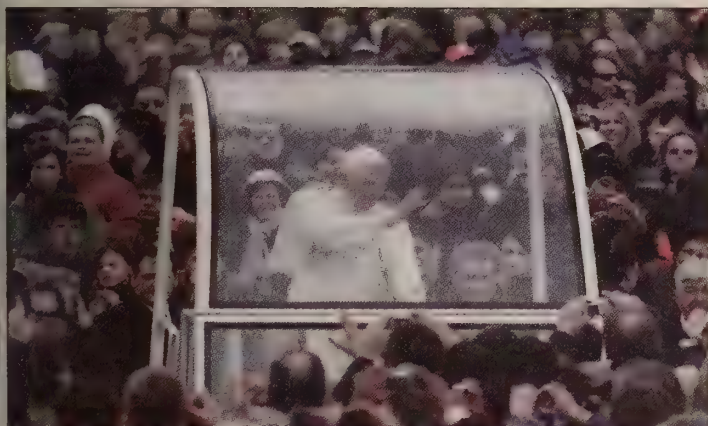
Deacon Roberts was ordained by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 29.

As a convert to Catholicism, the road to the diaconate has been anything but typical for Deacon Roberts, who was born in Charlotte and grew up in Lancaster, S.C. where he attended a Lutheran church.

"My parents have always been very supportive," said Deacon Roberts.

"He always wanted to be

See DEACON, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves from the popemobile in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 26. A different popemobile, also made by Mercedes-Benz, has left the Vatican and will be delivered by an air cargo company to the U.S. in time for the pope's April 15-20 visit..

## 'A journey of hope'

*Pope will find a spiritual nation during his  
U.S. visit, says survey*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI will find a spiritual nation when he visits the United States in April, according to a new national survey commissioned by the Knights of Columbus.

The survey, conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., found that "Americans are interested in hearing how God, religion and spirituality may be incorporated into their daily lives."

The results were released by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson March 25 at the National Press Club in Washington. His new book, "A Civilization of Love:

See POPE, page 9

## 'To harvest his invaluable spiritual heritage'

*Pope Benedict prays  
JP II will help him build  
on spiritual gifts*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI prayed that Pope John Paul II would intercede for him with God, helping him to gather and build on the spiritual gifts that Pope John Paul gave to the church.

See JP II, page 7

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## Easter reflections

*Catholics share Easter  
message with others*

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## FAITH! GET YOUR FAITH HERE!



CNS PHOTO BY JASON COLLINS, FLORIDA CATHOLIC

Father Victor Ulto (center), pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Port St. Lucie, Fla., and parishioner Brian Saville laugh as they serve a customer March 10 at a concession stand at Thomas J. White Stadium, spring training home of the New York Mets baseball team. Parishioners sold hot dogs, nachos and beer at two games this year to raise money for the church building fund.

## Spring training inspires homilies, offers chances for evangelization

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — With the spring training field for Major League Baseball's newest team right across the street, it's no wonder the sport would find its way into a homily at St. John the Evangelist Church in Viera.

"Our first Sunday here, the pastor (Father Lawrence Olszewski) compared the spirit of Lent with spring and spring training. He said how similar they are because it's a new start for everyone, including the ball club," said Washington Nationals spokesman John Dever.

His team has played spring training games at Space Coast Stadium since its inaugural season in 2005.

The Nationals were one of 18 major league teams that played their preseason games in five of Florida's seven dioceses this year. Players start reporting for spring training in mid-February and it's over at the end of March.

During that time the presence of the teams and their fans does more than inspire homilies and bolster attendance in nearby churches. It offers opportunities for game-day fundraising and evangelization, and for allowing Catholic players to share their stories.

But it also presents the challenge of meeting the spiritual needs of Catholic players, coaches and team staffers who have crushingly busy schedules.

"Baseball's schedule is not very forgiving for any faith, but I've been able to hit Mass a couple of times here on Saturdays and it has been fantastic," said Nationals left-handed pitcher John Lannan, a parishioner at St. Mary of the Isle Church in Long Beach, N.Y.

As an avid baseball fan, Father Tom Anastasia of St. Clement Church in Plant City often travels to Clearwater to enjoy his front-row seats for the Philadelphia Phillies

at Bright House Network Stadium.

Sitting in Father Anastasia's front-row seats at Bright House stadium on a recent afternoon was Father Michael O'Brien, pastor of St. Justin Martyr Church in Seminole. As a child growing up in St. Petersburg, Father O'Brien regularly saw spring training games and had a brother-in-law, Bill Freehan, who played for the Detroit Tigers.

"Baseball is just a major part of our family," Father O'Brien said. "Spring training has been in my blood since I was a kid."

Like Father Olszewski in Viera, the priest uses spring training as a metaphor in his Lenten homilies. Lent is a time of preparation for Catholics, just as spring training is a time of preparation for professional baseball. Like the pros, they cannot let their skills go lax after Easter.

"What typically happens is people say, 'Hey, Lent is over,'" and they stop focusing on growing spiritually, he said, but he tells them, "Lent has been our spring training and the triduum is the opening game, so come out and play!"

At St. Bernadette Church in Port St. Lucie, parishioners sell concessions during the New York Mets' spring training at Thomas J. White Stadium.

"We get a portion of the sales," said parishioner Joe Duffy. "We put a donation jar out and people toss coins in it, too. The money goes toward the building fund."

The pastor, Father Victor Ulto, said he always joins in and has fun.

"We make a few hundred dollars. More than that, we evangelize. Along with the hot dogs, we tell them about the parish. It's terrific. Man does not live on hot dogs alone," he said.

## Maryland Legislature passes measure to set up death penalty study

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Richard Dowling, executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, praised the Maryland General Assembly for passing legislation to establish a commission that will study the death penalty in Maryland.

The Catholic conference is the legislative lobbying arm of Maryland's Catholic bishops.

The House of Delegates passed its version of the bill March 21 on an 89-48 vote, and the Senate passed its version a day later on a 32-15 vote.

The two versions are expected to be reconciled soon, and Gov. Martin O'Malley is likely to sign the measure into law, Dowling said.

The commission will be made up of people on both sides of the issue, and it is expected to include representatives from the state's religious community.

"We're hopeful this commission will

help remove the residual doubts about whether our justice system can be best served by repeal of the death penalty," said Dowling.

The commission is expected to hold regional hearings, and Dowling said he is "confident people and interests throughout the state will have their say."

"If the polls are any indication, the people will make clear their preference for life sentences without the possibility of parole," he said.

While the Catholic conference had high hopes that a bill to repeal the death penalty would have been approved this year, the legislation was one vote short in the Senate judicial proceedings committee. Dowling is hopeful the commission will recommend repeal.

"If it does, that will provide the momentum needed to move repeal legislation through," he said.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A Taizé prayer service is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taizé is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A rosary is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — The Compassionate Friends of Charlotte meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. The organization is a support group for parents who have lost a child, regardless of cause of death or age of the child. The group meets at 7 p.m. in room 234. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Donna or Ralph Goodrich at (804) 882-4503 or e-mail [iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net](mailto:iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net).

CHARLOTTE — "Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow," a grief education event, will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center. Presenter will be Janice Olive of Hospice and Palliative Care. For more information, call BJ at (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration for children is held the second Wednesday of the month at 4:15 p.m. during the school year, led by Father Timothy Reid, pastor, St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd.

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will sponsor a workshop on *Understanding the Meaning of the Church*. Sisters Barbara Bartlett and Jeanne Marie Guerin will lead the workshop, which will include discussions on Vatican II and cultural influence, on Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Refreshments and light lunch provided. No admission fee. All are welcome. To register, call Sr. Veronica Grover at (704) 545-1224.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The Senior Group of Holy Spirit Church meets once a month for fun and fellowship.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official discusses Saudi king's idea to initiate dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The importance of marriage and the family and the values needed to sustain family life can be an appropriate starting point for interreligious dialogue, said an official of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Franciscan Father Gianfranco Grieco described as "interesting" Saudi Arabian King Abdullah Aziz's idea to initiate a dialogue with Muslims, Christians and Jews to defend the family, moral values and the importance of religion.

While Saudi Arabia is a strictly Islamic country where the public practice of any other faith is illegal, King Abdullah announced March 24 that he had been consulting Muslim religious leaders about the possibility of inviting "all religions to sit together with their brothers, faithfully and sincerely, as we all believe in the same God" to discuss "the crisis all humanity is suffering in the current time."

The institution of the family has been "weakened and dismantled," a lack of faith and religious practice has spread and "there is a lack of ethics, loyalty and sincerity," he said.

The king's speech said that after more consultations with Muslim leaders he hoped to convoke meetings with Christians and Jews because the Bible and the Torah, like the Quran, contain teaching that would help humanity defend itself against "those who tamper (with) religions, ethics and family systems."

King Abdullah said he had discussed the idea with Pope Benedict XVI when he traveled to the Vatican in November.

Commenting on the king's proposal, Father Grieco said, "Everything that helps family stability, values and education from whatever source — Christian, Muslim or Jewish — is good. We all know the importance of the family."

All seniors are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for *prayer at the abortion clinic*. A Woman's Choice, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. The group will be studying Colossians during the month of April. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

## SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572 for more information.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced

miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — *Coming Home* is a program for people who have drifted away or feel alienated from the church and want to explore coming back — no pressure, no obligations. The first meeting will be April 7 in the media center of Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1720 Link Rd., 5:30-6:45 p.m. For more information, contact Helen at (336) 403-5016 or Laura at (336) 624-5785, or e-mail cominghomeolm@yahoo.com

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican spokesman: Muslim convert has right to express his own ideas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI welcomed into the Catholic Church a Muslim-born journalist often critical of Islam, it was not a sign that the pope accepts everything the journalist believes, said the Vatican spokesman.

The Italian journalist, Magdi Allam, "has the right to express his own ideas. They remain his personal opinions without in any way becoming the official expression of the positions of the pope or the Holy See," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi.

Father Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, made his comments March 27 in response to a statement from Aref Ali Nayed, a spokesman for the 138 Muslim scholars who initiated the Common Word dialogue project in October and who established the Catholic-Muslim Forum for dialogue with the Vatican in early March.

Father Lombardi said baptism is a recognition that the person entering the church "has freely and sincerely accepted the Christian faith in its fundamental articles" as expressed in the creed.

"Of course, believers are free to maintain their own ideas on a vast range of questions and problems on which legitimate pluralism exists among Christians," he said. "Welcoming a new believer into the church clearly does not

mean espousing all that person's ideas and opinions, especially on political and social matters."

Nayed questioned the pope's decision to baptize Allam March 22 during the globally televised Easter Vigil from St. Peter's Basilica.

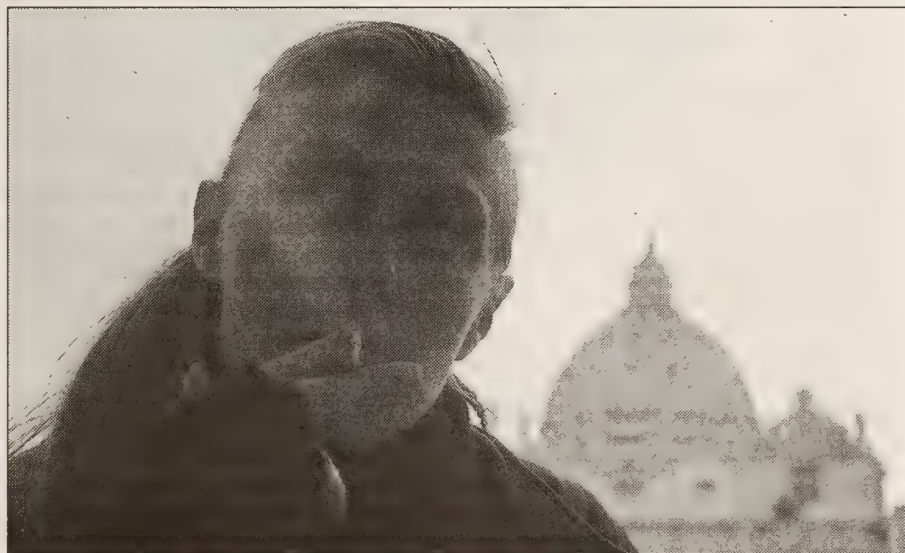
In a March 25 interview, Allam said his decision to convert grew as he became convinced that it was impossible to believe in a moderate form of Islam because "a substantial ambiguity found in the Quran and in the concrete actions of Mohammed" feeds violent tendencies.

Father Lombardi also strongly objected to the way Nayed referred to Allam's early education in Catholic schools in Egypt, implying that Catholic schools try to proselytize non-Christian students. The Catholic Church's commitment to the education of all children deserves praise and not suspicion, Father Lombardi said.

Father Lombardi said the Catholic Church today does not deserve an accusation that it lacks respect for human dignity and freedom, but there are many situations in the world where such respect is lacking and which need attention.

"Maybe this is why the pope accepted the risk of this baptism: to affirm the freedom of religious choice which derives from the dignity of the human person," he said.

# Smoke-free sanctuary?



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

A woman smokes at the Vatican March 27. The Vatican used to be known as a haven for smokers, but in 2002 smoking was banned in offices and public places. Physicians and Nurses against Tobacco, a Rhode Island-based organization, has asked Pope Benedict XVI to support its petition to declare Vatican City the world's first tobacco-free state.

## Bishop says he won't go to Catholic college's graduation

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Erie Bishop Donald W. Trautman said March 31 he will not attend May graduation ceremonies at Mercyhurst College because of the school's decision to allow Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York to hold a campaign rally on campus April 1.

Clinton supports keeping abortion legal.

"I am disappointed in Mercyhurst College for not reflecting the pro-life stance of the Catholic Church regarding

abortion," said Bishop Trautman, who usually attends the ceremonies.

In response, Dr. Thomas Gamble, college president, said the school respected the bishop's decision but was "saddened by it" and "will deeply miss his presence at graduation" at the college, run by the Sisters of Mercy.

School officials invited all the presidential candidates to address students as an educational opportunity for students; Clinton was the first to accept the invitation.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 7 (10:30 a.m.)  
Charlotte Catholic Women's Group Luncheon  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

April 7 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

April 9 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

April 11 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro



# Volunteer honored for work with refugees

VOLUNTEER, from page 1

in the United States, many refugees are overwhelmed with the challenges of adjusting to their new home. For more than 50 years, LaMay has been a resource and support to help refugees become self-sustaining, valuable members of the Charlotte community.

Known for his multitasking abilities, LaMay takes the lead in organizing his parish, St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, and community volunteers in securing and setting up furniture for new arrivals' apartments and ensuring the cupboards are stocked.

If a larger family lacks a washer and dryer, he's on the hunt to provide them one. If a washer and dryer can't be located, he collects bags of laundry and washes them overnight at home.

He makes sure that refugee children, who may step into a Charlotte winter with few belongings, are welcomed with warm coats and bicycles.

To many refugee clients, LaMay is both a mentor and a friend. Knowing how important it is for a refugee to quickly learn English, he often tutors several families at a time and even helps refugee children and their parents bridge the language barrier at area schools.

"He lives out his faith and inspires all around him to be better Christians with his self-deprecating humor, compassion and caring for the neediest among us," said Bruton.

LaMay's impact doesn't stop with his work with refugees. He serves as a CSS "ambassador" in the community, helping to identify needs, generate donations and recruit new volunteers.

A typical day might find him painting a classroom, checking on a client's job progress or explaining the mysteries of an American grocery store to a new arrival.

On a regular basis, he shares his energy and vision with fellow members of CSS's board of directors.

The National Volunteer of the Year Award annually recognizes the invaluable contributions volunteers make to the Catholic Charities network throughout the country.

LaMay was chosen from dozens of nominations submitted by local Catholic Charities agencies for exemplifying the spirit and mission of Catholic Charities in reducing poverty, supporting families, and empowering communities.

"Without the dedication and commitment of volunteers like Bill, who donate so much of their valuable time and energy, Catholic Charities agencies across the United States would never be able to provide services for millions of people a year," said Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president.

"When I look at the lives of all the refugees that Bill has touched and the difference he has made in the community, I am grateful that he is part of the Catholic Charities family.

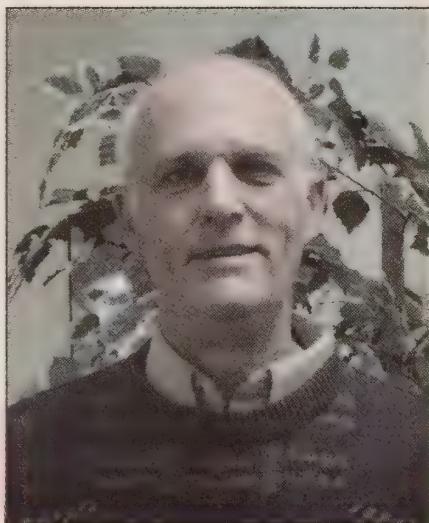


PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Catholic Social Services volunteer William LaMay is pictured in the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte March 17. He is a finalist for Catholic Charities USA's 2008 National Volunteer of the Year Award.

The world is a better place because of Bill," he said.

Volunteers nationwide provide the backbone of the Catholic Charities movement. Collectively, local Catholic Charities agencies rely on more than 243,000 volunteers each year to serve more than 7.8 million people of all faiths and diverse needs.

The 2008 award recipient will be announced during National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, and will be honored at Catholic Charities USA's Annual Gathering in New Orleans Sept. 27.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about CSS's Refugee Resettlement Office, visit [www.cssnc.org/refugee.html](http://www.cssnc.org/refugee.html) or call (704) 370-3277.



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# Prayer and reflection

*Ecumenical women's gathering focuses on relationships with God*

BREVARD—Women of many faiths recently reflected on their relationships with God and each other.

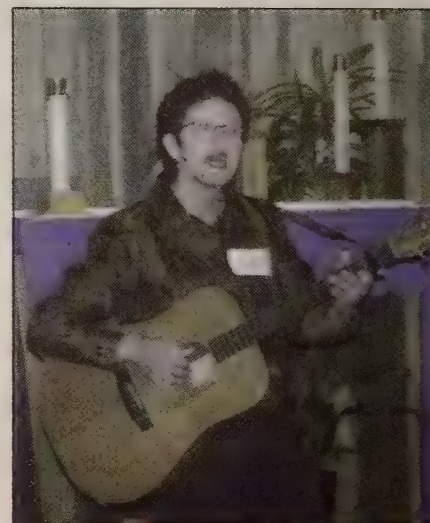
Two hundred and fifty women from 31 area churches attended the third annual Christian Woman's Day of Reflection at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard March 8.

The day opened up with a prayer service led by Austin Robeson, a member of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Brevard, followed by presentations by Anne Trufant and Jane Derrick.

Trufant, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and writer/singer of Christian music, spoke on "Relationships." She challenged the women to deepen their relationships with God through prayer and actions.

Derrick, a Bible teacher and workshop leader at the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville, discussed "Prayer" and utilized a number of psalms in her presentation.

The day also provided opportunities for small group discussions and networking. Participants also were



COURTESY PHOTO

Anne Trufant leads women in song during the third annual Christian Women's Day of Reflection at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard March 8.

invited to join in a weekly prayer group to end domestic violence, founded by the Day of Reflection's organizing committee.

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9 am to 3:30 pm:

Closing Mass with Father Ed Sheridan  
Registration deadline: April 15th

Thurs., May 1st - St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte  
9:30 am to 3:45 pm: Closing Mass with Father Frank O'Rourke  
Registration deadline: April 22nd

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## FROM THE COVER

# Seminarian ordained as transitional deacon

DEACON, from page 1



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis places the Book of Gospels in the hands of transitional Deacon Benjamin Roberts during Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 29. Also pictured: Transitional Deacon Tri Vinh Truong.

**MORE PHOTOS of Deacon Benjamin Roberts' ordination are available online at [www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html).**



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Newly-ordained Deacon Benjamin Roberts assists Bishop Peter J. Jugis during Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte March 29. Also pictured: Transitional Deacon Tri Vinh Truong.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

president," recalled his mother.

Susan Saunders, Deacon Roberts' childhood babysitter, remembered that he could recite all the U.S. presidents and vice presidents by the age of five.

"It's been amazing to look back over his life and see where the Lord has led him," she said.

Like Saunders, Patti Roberts also recognized something special in her son at an early age.

"At 5-years-old, he could sing all the Lutheran liturgy," she said.

Following high school, Deacon Roberts began training to be a Lutheran minister. He studied Lutheran theology under the guidance of Rev. Andrew Weisner, campus pastor at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory.

"As a student assistant, Ben just knew what to do without instruction and without prompting," said Rev. Weisner. "He was born with a sense of liturgy; it's in his bones."

Rev. Weisner was instrumental in encouraging Deacon Roberts' conversion to the Catholic faith. He introduced him to Father Conrad Kimbrough, then-pastor at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro.

"Father Kimbrough was really helpful in helping to discern my vocation, not only by talking but by showing what it means to be a priest," said Deacon Roberts.

Deacon Roberts said there were three things that drew him to the Catholic faith.

"It was the Eucharist, a consistent moral doctrine and someone taught me how to pray the rosary," he said.

He was received into the Catholic Church and confirmed by Father Peter Fitzgibbons at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville Oct. 30, 1999.

After a year of working in a soup kitchen in inner-city Chicago, Deacon Roberts entered the seminary under the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Buffalo, N.Y. Next he entered his novitiate, a yearlong spiritual retreat in preparation for vows. During that time, he discerned the call to become a parish priest.

"There has been a wonderful example and support of so many priests in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

He said he is especially thankful for the support of the parishioners at his home parish, St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, and its pastor, Father Kurt Fohn.

"I learned a lot about ministry and the importance of prayer for a priest from Father Kurt," Deacon Roberts said.

In his homily at the ordination, Bishop Jugis discussed the three areas through which deacons are called to serve the church: the ministries of the word, the altar and charity.

"It is as a servant that Benjamin will share in the mission and the grace of Christ," said Bishop Jugis.

"He wants to give himself in service to the church," said Amber Luckey, a college friend of Deacon Roberts. "He has a complete love for God and he's doing this very willfully and joyfully."

"I know he is always going to put those in his flock first," she said.

During the rite of ordination, Bishop Jugis called forth Deacon Roberts to make the promise of celibacy and the vow of obedience. He lay prostrate on the floor while the bishop, the concelebrating priests and deacons serving stood and prayed the Litany of the Saints.

Following the litany, the bishop laid his hands on Deacon Roberts' head and asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon him. Father Kimbrough, now a retired priest, and Deacon Nicholas Fadero of St. Patrick Cathedral then vested him with the dalmatic and stole.

Deacon Fadero has been a family friend of Deacon Roberts for many years; like Father Kimbrough, he encouraged Deacon Roberts in his vocation.

Next, Deacon Roberts knelt before the bishop, who placed the Book of Gospels in his hands. The new deacon then assisted with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Deacons are permitted to preach, to assist priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; to officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and to administer blessings during certain liturgical rites. Transitional deacons are men enrolled in seminaries who intend to be ordained as priests.

Deacon Roberts is currently completing his studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania and will be ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte in June 2009.

"I love preaching," Deacon Roberts said, "But what I'm looking forward to most as a deacon is saying the words in the ritual of baptism."

"That I, through my unworthy hands, will bring about divine life in a soul," he said, "that is what I am looking forward to most."

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# Order priest arrested on sex abuse charges

*Diocese unaware of police investigation into allegations*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — A religious order priest who once served in the Diocese of Charlotte was arrested April 2 on sexual abuse charges involving a minor.

Capuchin Franciscan Father Robert Yurgel was taken into custody by U.S. marshals in Passaic, N.J., where he lives, on a warrant issued by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. He will be extradited to Charlotte.

The warrant alleges five counts of indecent liberties with a child and two counts of statutory sex offense that allegedly took place with a minor in 1999, while Father Yurgel was a parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

Father Yurgel served as parochial vicar at the church from 1997 until 1999. After this time, he served briefly at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

The alleged victim, now in his early 20s, only recently reported the matter to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Diocesan officials were not made aware of the allegations or the investigation prior to the April 2 announcement of the arrest by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police.

Under the provisions of the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocese of Charlotte is required to report allegations of sexual misconduct by church workers to civil authorities. No allegations regarding Father Yurgel were reported to the diocese.

Since the diocese adopted the charter in 2002, more than 16,300 diocesan employees and church volunteers have attended the diocese's sex-abuse awareness training program,

"Protecting God's Children."

The diocese conducts background checks on employees and volunteers to safeguard the young and the vulnerable. More than 2,400 background checks were conducted during the last fiscal year.

The training and background checks are ongoing.

In June 2002 at a meeting in Dallas, the U.S. bishops adopted the charter and its mandates for an annual audit and survey and also adopted the "Essential Norms" to assure that all dioceses adhere to the charter.

The charter also established the Office of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board to oversee compliance with the charter. The Diocese of Charlotte has been found in compliance with the charter.

The charter was updated in 2005, the norms in 2006. The charter and norms have Vatican approval.

David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

## DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

## NEED ASSISTANCE?

As a part of its commitment to support the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the Diocese of Charlotte has appointed a coordinator to assist survivors of sexual abuse.

The assistance coordinator can help survivors of abuse whether the incident took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese.

The current coordinator is David Harold. Contact him at (704) 370-3363 or [dwharold@charlottediocese.org](mailto:dwharold@charlottediocese.org).

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## FROM THE COVER

# Pope Benedict prays JP II will help him build on spiritual gifts

JP II, from page 1

Almost 40,000 people joined Pope Benedict April 2 in St. Peter's Square for a Mass marking the third anniversary of Pope John Paul's death.

"We pray that from heaven he will continue to intercede for each one of us, and in a special way for me, whom providence has called to harvest his invaluable spiritual heritage," the pope said in his homily.

"May the church, following his teaching and example, continue his evangelizing mission faithfully and without compromise, tirelessly spreading the merciful love of Christ, the source of true peace for the whole world," he said.

The concelebrants included Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, who had served as Pope John Paul's secretary for almost 40 years.

At an April 1 conference dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul, Cardinal Dziwisz said he continues to receive hundreds of letters from people who have asked for Pope John Paul's intercession and he, himself, continues to pray for his former boss' assistance.

"I do not miss John Paul," he said. "I accompanied him for almost 40 years and now he accompanies me. When I have a problem, I turn to him and he is with me."

Speaking in Poland before traveling to Rome for the anniversary events, Cardinal Dziwisz said he hopes Pope John Paul will be beatified and

canonized soon, but he would not put any pressure on Pope Benedict to speed the process further.

"The pope will know when and at which moment to proclaim John Paul II's beatification. We trust in his wisdom and assistance," the cardinal said.

Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the priest in charge of promoting the cause, told Vatican Radio March 31 that he had completed a 2,000-page draft of the "positio," the official position paper explaining why Pope John Paul should be proclaimed a saint.

An official at the Congregation for Saints' Causes is examining the draft, a few adjustments are expected, and then the report will be officially submitted for judgment.

Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul's repeated calls for people not to be afraid were not based on a trust in human potential or success, "but only on the word of God, the cross and the resurrection of Christ."

"He always said it with inflexible firmness, first brandishing his pastoral staff topped with the cross and then, when his physical energies were diminishing, almost hanging on to it, and then — on that last Good Friday in which he participated in the Way of the Cross from his private chapel — gripping the cross in his arms," the pope said.

Pope John Paul was totally devoted to Christ, Pope Benedict said: "With him he lived and with him he wanted to die."

*Contributing to this story was Jonathan Luxmoore in Oxford, England.*



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

A pilgrim holds an image of Pope John Paul II during an April 2 Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican marking the third anniversary of Pope John Paul's death. Pope Benedict prayed that Pope John Paul would intercede for him with God, helping him to gather and build on the spiritual gifts that the late pontiff gave to the church.

## 'His love and joy were contagious'

### At Vatican, pilgrims remember pope as man of peace, father figure

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square to mark the third anniversary of Pope John Paul II's death remembered him as a man of peace and a pastoral father who inspired a whole generation of young people around the world.

Tens of thousands of people of every age and nationality attended the April 2 outdoor memorial Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. Banners and flags, many of them representing Poland, fluttered in the gentle breeze under Rome's warm spring skies.

Pope John Paul "really felt like a father figure, and the way he loved Christ inspired me to love God more," said Carolina Robles, 25, of Lubbock, Texas.

She told Catholic News Service that the late pope convinced her that committing oneself to God was something that every young person could and needed to do.

"Being young, he made me think I could do that and not wait until the end" to follow Christ, she said.

"He knew young people had a yearning for God in their hearts," said Robles, one of a small group of graduate students of theology studying in Rome this spring.

Another Texas student, Stephen Schietinger of Austin, said when Pope John Paul died, "I felt this void."

It suddenly felt like this "pastoral father who had watched over me my whole life" and "who had personally cared for me wasn't there anymore," said Schietinger, 22.

Father Stefaan Lecleir, a member of

the Institute of the Incarnate Word, said the pope's main message throughout his nearly 27-year pontificate was "to gather the youth and to be a real father for them and to give them a strong message of truth."

The priest from Antwerp, Belgium, said the Polish pope helped all people "feel at home in the church."

The late pope was popular in part, he said, because people saw him as a man who practiced what he preached.

"He was a man who suffered under communist rule, who was true to himself even during persecution. What he believed and what he did were united, and I think people feel that when someone is true" to his or her beliefs, he said.

Federico Geli of Mendoza, Argentina, said the late pope "could communicate the word of God really well."

He always urged young people to not be afraid "because God is with you, Jesus needs you. So I think that's why the youth loved him," he said.

Sefanit Mekonnen said Pope John Paul "gave us a lot to be thankful for, and I'm here to pray for him."

"His joy and love were contagious," said the 26-year-old from Dallas.

Many pilgrims said they were happy Pope John Paul's sainthood process was going forward. Teresa Deeble of Essex, England, said the pope, who always prayed for peace, deserved to be honored in such a way.

Nikki DeMarco and her husband, Anthony, who reside in Vicenza, Italy, said they did not think the canonization process was going too slowly.

"In this world of instant gratification, it is nice some things take awhile," she said.

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# Bishop Jugis on the JumboTron

*Diocesan video to play prior to papal Mass*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — During his visit to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI will get to see a piece of the Diocese of Charlotte, without ever leaving Washington, D.C.

A video greeting by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and images from the diocese will be seen on the large-screen television in Nationals Park prior to the papal Mass April 17.

At the invitation of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Charlotte created the welcoming video for Pope Benedict. The pope's first visit to the United States is April 15-20.

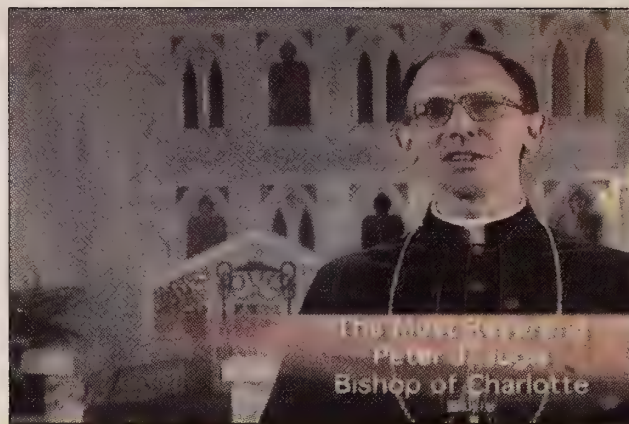
In the one-minute video recorded at

St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, Bishop Jugis briefly describes the diocese and its 300,000 Catholics.

"We call home places like Biscoe and Boone, Greensboro and Gastonia, Cherokee and Charlotte," says the bishop in the video. "We worship Jesus Christ, his Father and the Holy Spirit in a beautiful cathedral and in tiny mission parishes."

Bishop Jugis was taped in front of the cathedral, the chair for the bishop in the sanctuary at St. Patrick Cathedral. The background was altered slightly with the addition of a silhouetted crucifix. The sanctuary was returned to its regular appearance after the video shoot was completed.

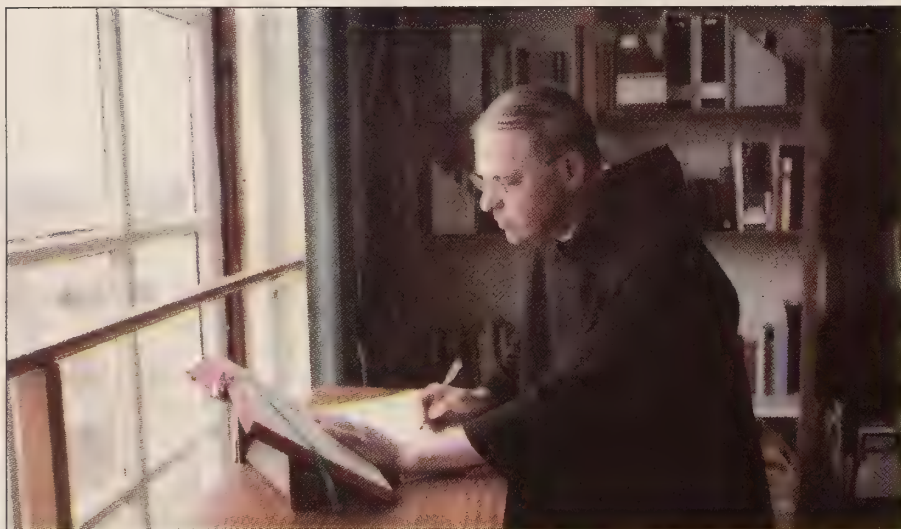
Bishop Jugis also mentions



STAFF PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is seen in St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte in this screen capture from a welcome video to be played before the papal Mass in Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., April 17.

## Local priest writes chants for pope's U.S. visit



COURTESY PHOTO

Benedictine Father Samuel Weber, associate professor at the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, is pictured in this undated photograph. He has composed original chant settings that will be performed during the Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Washington, D.C., April 15-17.

*Father Weber's chants will be used at vespers, first papal Mass*

WINSTON-SALEM — Benedictine Father Samuel Weber, associate professor of early Christianity and spiritual formation at the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, has been invited to compose original chant settings that will be performed during Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Washington, D.C., April 15-17.

The chants will be sung during vespers, or evening prayer, with the pope at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception April 16, and during a private Mass — the first papal Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict in the United States — at the apostolic nunciature (papal embassy) the following morning.

"I am deeply honored to have a small part to play in the preparation of this vesper service," said Father Weber.

The Benedictine monk, of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana,

composed original chant melodies for the antiphons, which are scriptural verses sung before and after the psalms and canticles of vespers.

Peter Latona, basilica director of music, invited Father Weber to compose the chants and has created polyphonic settings based on Father Weber's chants.

During the service, the antiphons will be sung by the basilica's 24-member choir in plain chant before the psalms and canticles of vespers, and then repeated afterward in full harmony.

Father Weber said the decision to use chant melodies reflects the aesthetic and tradition at the heart of prayer life in the Catholic Church.

"Historically, sacred compositions were based on the chant melodies which formed the core of liturgical music," he said.

The April 16 vespers service is expected to be televised worldwide.

the upcoming diocesan Eucharistic Congress, an annual event that draws 10,000 people to the Charlotte Convention Center for a day of worship, music and reflection. This year's congress takes place Oct. 3-4.

The bishop ends his welcome by expressing his hope that the papal visit will have a positive impact on America.

"May the inspiration of his visit live in the hearts and souls of all Americans for many years to come," says Bishop Jugis.

The video will be played for the audience gathered in Nationals Park, the new major league baseball stadium and home to the National League's Washington Nationals, prior to the Mass

celebrated by Pope Benedict. Bishop Jugis will be among the bishops and priests to concelebrate the Mass.

Bishop Jugis and other bishops also will attend vespers and a meeting with the pope in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington April 16.

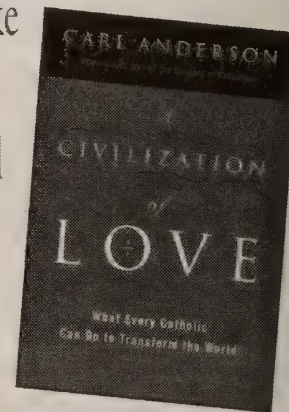
*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

### WANT TO WATCH?

Bishop Jugis' welcoming video is available on the diocesan Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

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# Pope will find a spiritual nation in U.S., says survey

POPE, from page 1

What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World," debuted the same day.

By a ratio of more than 4-to-1, the survey said, Americans have a favorable opinion of Pope Benedict; 58 percent of those surveyed said they view him favorably, compared with 13 percent who have an unfavorable opinion.

Seventeen percent said they have never heard of him.

Sixty-five percent of Americans have a favorable opinion of the Catholic Church, compared to 28 percent who have an unfavorable view.

"The bottom line is despite very negative stories about the church and the pope" over the last few years, Anderson said, "the American people have a very ... balanced view of (Pope) Benedict and the Catholic Church, and they are very open to hear his views on how they might live out their faith."

Despite their positive view of the pope, Americans said they don't know much about him, he noted.

When Pope Benedict comes to the United States, Anderson said, Americans will find that he "is a very warm and kind man whose intellectual talents and formidable background as a theologian do

not prevent him from giving sermons that are accessible to the average person."

"He is an incisive creative thinker who is one of the most skilled and thoughtful theologians of modern times," he continued. "He is deeply concerned about the future of the world and has a carefully thought-out worldview on how the church relates to the world and how the church can set out to change the world."

## Survey says

Other survey results showed that:

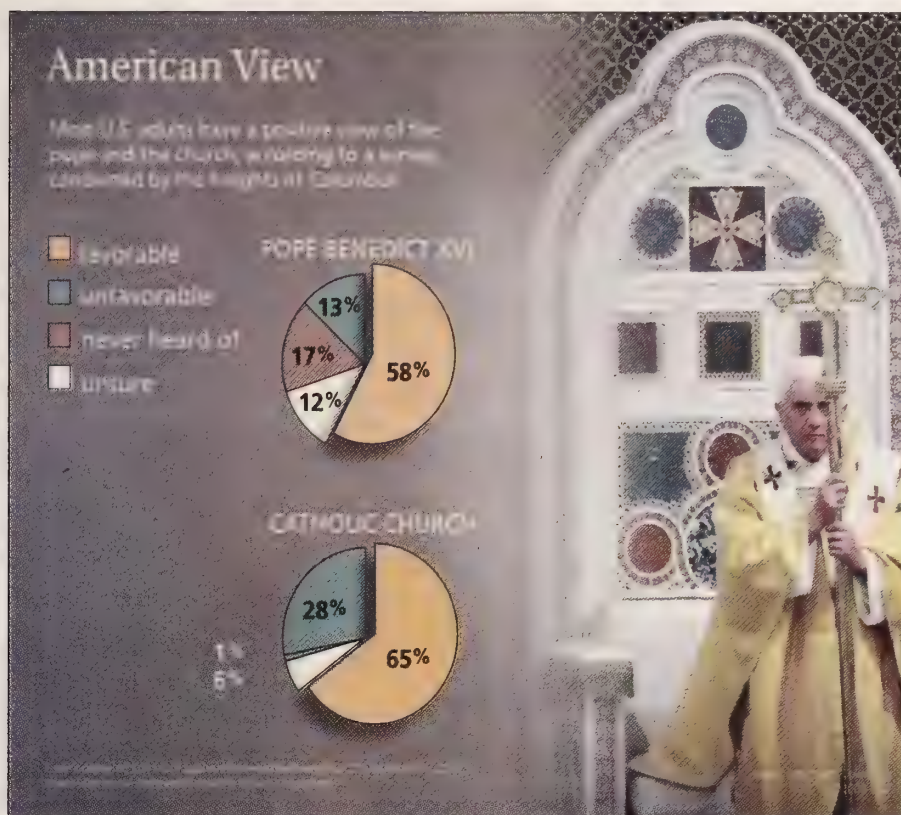
— Sixty-three percent of Americans believe the Catholic Church contributes either "a great deal or a good amount to people and communities" in the United States; 24 percent believe the church contributes "not very much or nothing at all."

— Forty-two percent of Americans said they would like to attend one of Pope Benedict's public appearances; 66 percent of Catholics said they would like to attend one of the events.

— Seventy percent or more of Americans said they want to hear the pope talk about spiritual matters such as allowing God to be part of their daily lives and finding spiritual fulfillment "by sharing their time and talent," as well as how "they can make a positive difference in the world, their state and communities."

— Nearly two-thirds of Americans, or 64 percent, expressed an interest in hearing Pope Benedict address "how they can have a society where spiritual values play an important role."

— Most Americans identify themselves with a particular religion: Protestant, 52 percent; Catholic, 26 percent; Mormon, 2 percent; Jewish, 2 percent; Hindu, 1 percent; Muslim, 1 percent; other, 3 percent. Thirteen percent identified no religion.



— A majority of Americans attend religious services regularly, including 59 percent of Catholics.

The survey was conducted Feb. 25-March 5; 1,015 adults 18 years of age or older were interviewed.

An oversample of Catholics also was done, so a total of 613 interviews were conducted with Catholics nationwide. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for the entire survey, and plus or minus 4 percentage points for the Catholic sample.

## Promoting hope

Anderson told his press club audience that the Knights have set up a special Web site — [www.papaltrip.com](http://www.papaltrip.com). It features a daily schedule of papal events, an interactive map, a detailed biography of Pope Benedict, the full text of his encyclicals and links to his books.

The Knights also will sponsor a

nationally broadcast TV discussion program titled "A Journey of Hope" to preview the trip. It will air April 13 on CBS affiliates in New York, Washington, Chicago and Los Angeles.

It also will air on the Fox Business Channel on cable and on a variety of Catholic television outlets, including the Eternal Word Television Network. (Viewers should check local listings for airtimes.)

Anderson told his audience that it is "no accident" that Pope Benedict's first encyclical was on love: "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love").

"The notion that God is love is fundamental to our understanding of our creator," Anderson said. "We are all fallible human beings and we all need love and the very fact we exist at all is the result of God's love. It is often hard for us to love others, but love we must if we have any hope to change the culture."

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Upcoming book links parishioners' politics with their priests' views

*Interviews, parish bulletins reveal what priests emphasize*

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A small study to be reported in an upcoming book on the political influence of parish priests found huge differences in the types of political messages being emphasized from one parish to another, which may come as no surprise to anyone.

But whichever subjects their priests address, said author Gregory Smith, a fellow at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, people clearly are being influenced in their political thinking by what they hear from the pulpit and read in their parish bulletins.

Smith spoke March 14 to a group of editors of U.S. and Canadian Catholic publications and staff members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at USCCB headquarters in Washington.

For his upcoming book, "Politics in the Parish: The Political Influence of Catholic Priests," Smith conducted detailed case studies at nine parishes in adjacent dioceses in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, and analyzed data from the Notre Dame Study of Parish Life, which was conducted in the mid-1980s.

Smith said that although he studied only a small number of parishes in a relatively small geographic area, the type of political messages being heard varied radically from one parish to another, even within the same diocese. He gathered data in 2004, concluding shortly after the general election in November.

For instance, parishioners were more likely to describe themselves as politically conservative if they were in parishes where the priests regularly emphasized life issues, such as abortion and stem-cell research, but rarely brought up subjects such as poverty or the environment in a political context, Smith said.

Likewise, Catholics who described themselves as politically moderate or liberal were much more likely to be members of parishes that regularly emphasized political responsibilities toward the poor or immigrants.

The priests he interviewed don't

mince words that might not be well received, he found.

"Across the board they all said they were willing to speak up even when they know the subject matter is going to be unpopular," he said.

Smith said his extensive interviews with priests and parishioners were designed to filter out people who choose their parish on the basis of whether it has a reputation for being politically liberal or conservative. By doing so, he explained, he believes he was able to link people's voting behavior to influences from their parishes.

In comparing the data from the Notre Dame study to his own recent interviews, Smith told Catholic News Service he found the link between people's political beliefs and the perspectives they hear at church to be more indirect than what the Notre Dame report showed.

The Notre Dame study found a strong correlation between how people voted and the political views of their priests. No comprehensive analysis of how Catholics are or are not influenced by what they hear at their churches has been conducted since that mid-1980s study, Smith said.

Besides questioning priests and parishioners, Smith over the course of the year also studied parish bulletins, as a source of information about what issues are emphasized in parish life, whether through activities or explicit voter guidance materials.

"There was a very close match between the information conveyed in the bulletins and the responses from priests about what they said they emphasize," Smith said.



## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 13, 2008

April 13, Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Psalm 23: 1-6
- 2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
- Gospel: John 10:1-10

### By 'walking wounded,' we become healers for Christ

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When my daughter was 5 years old, she was involved in a household accident that left a deep gash in her upper thigh. Horrified, I scooped her up, wrapped a clean dish towel around the wound and took her to the emergency room where they cleaned and sutured it.

It healed remarkably fast and the leg is fully functional, but nine years later a scar remains as a visible reminder of the accident.

There's an expression, "walking wounded," that describes people who are by all appearances functional but who carry in their bodies and their psyches the traces of injury.

Cuts and abrasions leave scars on the skin; abusive treatment, tragic events and acute losses leave scars on the soul.

No human beings who live in an imperfect world are immune; in a sense, we're all "walking wounded," projecting

images of well-being and perfection while hiding the evidence of those wounds out of a sense of shame and guilt.

According to the Gospel featured three weeks ago, Thomas remained unbelieving until he felt the nail marks in Jesus' hands and the wound in his side — blemishes that remained even in Jesus' resurrected body.

Although one would expect that all physical traces of his torture on the way to Calvary would have faded away, they endured not only visibly but palpably. Jesus the healer, risen from the dead, victorious over suffering and death, chose to reveal himself to his disciples as a wounded person.

Why? Perhaps he did so to remind us that healing is not about restoration to some imagined state of pristine perfection. Our wounds, like his, have the power to heal others.

Our sufferings, touched by the healing love of a resurrected savior, become a source of empathy, compassion and the motivation to ease others' sufferings.

By putting aside misplaced shame and guilt and "walking wounded" with one another, we become healers as well, according to the image of Christ, by whose wounds we are healed.

#### Questions:

What "wounds" do you carry but hide from view? How can these become a source of compassion and healing for others?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pt 2:24).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6-12

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35; **Monday (St. John Baptist de la Salle)**, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday**, Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday**, Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday**, Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday (St. Stanislaus)**, Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday**, Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13-19

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter)**, Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10; **Monday**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:11-18; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.

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# Favre and faith

*Catholic leaders reflect on football player's impact on, off field*

BY JEFF KUROWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GREEN BAY, Wis. — While the sports world came to halt at the March 4 announcement of Green Bay Packer Brett Favre's retirement, Catholic leaders in Green Bay and Mississippi also paused to reflect on the impact the near-certain Hall of Fame quarterback had on and off the field.

Father Richard Getchel, pastor at St. Agnes Church on Green Bay's west side, presided at Brett and Deanna Favre's wedding in 1996, and baptized their daughter Breleigh in 1999.

The couple grew up in Mississippi. "I thought he would return, so it surprised me," Father Getchel said. "I'm happy for him and the family. I sent Deanna an e-mail. She wrote back thanking me for my concern, which was nice."

Norbertine Father James Baraniak, chaplain for the Packers, attempted to reach the Favres in the days prior to the announcement. He was unaware of the pending retirement.

Instead, Father Baraniak sought to share a special invitation from the papal visit advance team for Brett and his wife and the Packers' Coach Mike McCarthy to attend the papal Mass in Washington.

When he finally spoke to Deanna, "she explained that it was an intense time," so they weren't answering all their phone calls.

"When I shared with her the proposal," the priest said, "she said if it was entirely up to her, she would give me an answer immediately, but she had to talk to Brett. 'You know that husband of mine,' she said."

Both priests spoke of their admiration for the Favres. St. Agnes Church was the family's home parish, while they were in Green Bay. Daughters Brittany and Breleigh had both attended Holy Family School, located on the parish grounds.

Father Baraniak first met Brett 12 years ago on a team flight. It is a moment he will never forget.

"I didn't get the memo to dress formal on the plane," he said. "I was wearing a polo and khakis. When he saw me on the plane, he pointed me out and said, 'New guy.' When he later saw me in my habit, he was really surprised. He said, 'New guy's a priest!' That was our introduction."

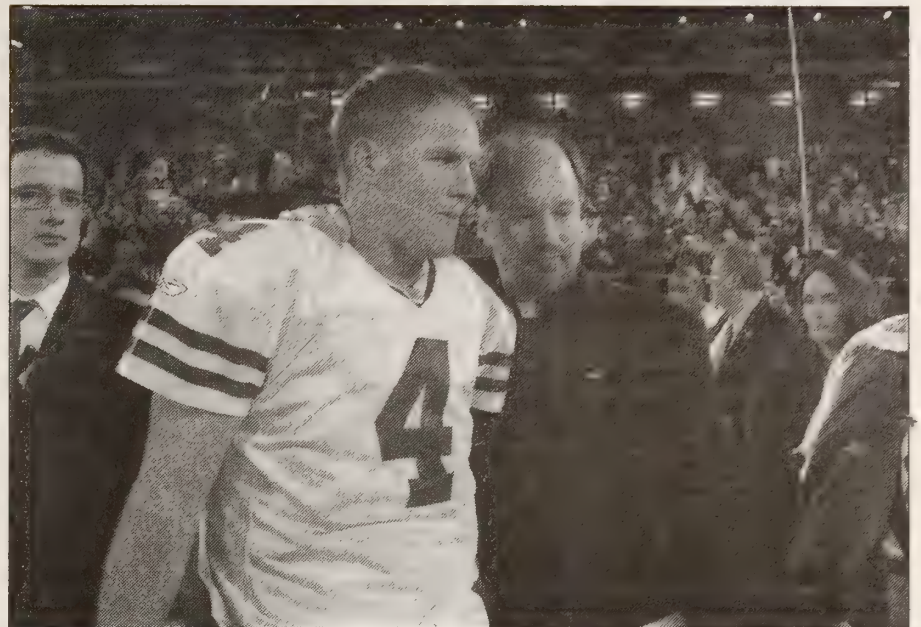
Father Baraniak was with the Favres in Oakland when Irvin Favre, Brett's father, died in 2003.

"They are very impressive people," he said, "so there is a bit of sadness. For very young people, they have done very well considering all the difficult times they have faced," including Deanna's battle with breast cancer.

Brett's playful demeanor was not only displayed on the field, said Father Baraniak. It was sometimes showcased at the team Mass prior to home games.

"There are more people at the Mass on the road, so at home, I really saw that personality," he said.

"I remember I was getting ready to start a Mass, when Brett interrupted me. Jeff Thomason (former Packer tight end) was wearing a wild shirt," the priest recalled. "Brett stood up and said, 'Excuse me Father, but J.T., I just want to know if you're wearing one of those shirts that if you stare at it long



CNS PHOTO BY JIM BIEVER, GREEN BAY PACKERS

The Green Bay Packers' team chaplain, Norbertine Father James Baraniak, exits the field with quarterback Brett Favre, after the Packers' 41-7 victory over the Raiders in Oakland, Calif., Dec. 22, 2004. Favre announced March 6 that he's retiring.

enough an image appears?' Everyone was laughing."

The Favres attend St. Thomas the Aquinas Church in Hattiesburg, Miss. Father Tommy Conway, pastor, said he will miss trips to Green Bay for Packers games, but is happy for the family.

"It's a massive relief for Deanna," he said. "She loves the Packers, but she was concerned that something would happen to him."

"I think Deanna has shaped Brett Favre into the man he is today. I give her an awful lot of credit," he said. "They have faced adversity in their lives and they are both better people for it."

"I told Brett when he left for this past season that I was praying for two things for him," Father Conway added. "I wanted him to remain free of injury and to have a whole lot of fun. He was able to accomplish both."

One way the Favres live out their faith is through their numerous charitable efforts, including the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation and the Deanna

Favre Hope Foundation.

Green Bay Bishop Robert J. Banks, who has spoken with Brett several times at the annual Bishop's Charities Game, said the player's popularity goes beyond his success on the football field.

People relate to not only his wife's battle with cancer, but to the quarterback's own struggles with addiction to painkillers and deaths in the family.

"He's faced some tough challenges and he's handled them so well," he said.

Loyalty, unpredictability and humility come to mind about Brett, said Auxiliary Bishop Robert F. Morneau of Green Bay.

"Brett was here for 16 years," he said. "This is almost unheard of in professional sports."

"I believe that Packers fans interpreted this as a sign of fidelity; that Brett really wanted to be here," he said. "He seemed to be saying, 'I love this organization and its many and varied members.' People responded to this with deep affection and admiration."

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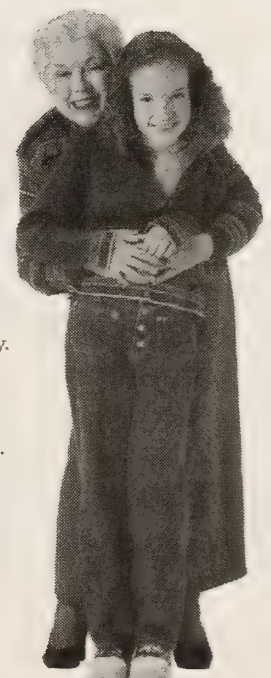
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## Acting on faith

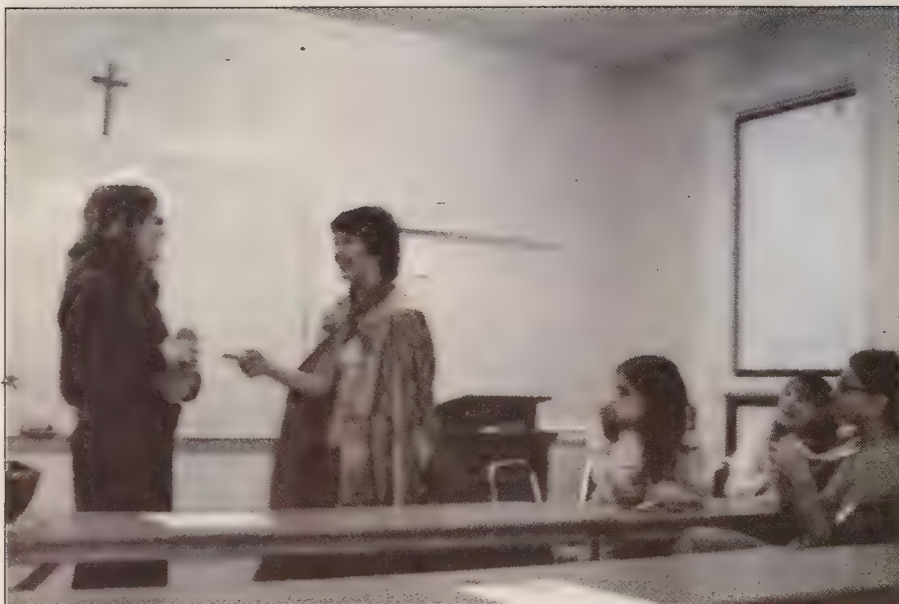


PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Youths take part in an acting workshop during Extreme Faith 2008 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden March 15.

## Youths gather for fun, prayer at annual retreat

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Youths from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently learned different ways to proclaim Christ.

More than 100 youths gathered for the annual Extreme Faith middle school youth retreat held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden March 15.

Sponsored by the diocesan Youth Ministry Office, Extreme Faith is a daylong event held at different parishes each year. It is an opportunity for Catholic youths to gather together for a day of fun, workshops, communal prayer and extreme games — including an obstacle course, bungee run and other games of skill.

"It's a way to bring middle school children into the life of the Catholic Church through experiences geared toward them," said Peg Ruble, associate director of diocesan youth ministry.

"The U.S. bishops have stated that ministry to youth should be integral to the life of the church. This retreat combines the message of Jesus with the mission of the young church — to know, love and serve," she said. "It provides an experience of church that allows youths to say they've heard Jesus' message and it was fun."

This year's theme was "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim," chosen to coincide with the theme of the upcoming diocesan

Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 3-4.

The theme was woven through the retreat's seven workshops for youths and two for the 20 adult chaperones and volunteers. Youths were assigned to participate in some workshops and got to select others.

The acting workshop was a popular choice — participants learned what Jesus was trying to teach in each parable by acting it out and putting the parables into modern times.

In the "Iconography: Creating Sacred Images" workshop, youths used art to learn about Jesus. Other workshops utilized music, humor and different ways of learning to reveal how Jesus wants his people to live and behave.

The workshops "honor the developmental needs of early adolescents with the relational needs of the teen," said Ruble. "We hope to offer them a taste of the depth and wisdom of the faith and the opportunity to grow in understanding."

Meanwhile, adults discussed the current and future needs of youth ministry in the diocese. Chaperones and volunteers from various parishes discussed different approaches for reaching and evangelizing middle school-aged youths.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For other youth events in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit the Youth Ministry Office online at [www.charlottediocese.org/youthministry.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/youthministry.html).

## Scout chefs



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Girl Scout Troop 33 at St. Michael Church in Gastonia cook potato and clam chowder soup to serve to parishioners before a Stations of the Cross service March 21. Every Friday night during Lent, a service group from the parish prepared a free meatless meal for parishioners before the service. Approximately 80 people attended weekly.

Also pictured (from left): Susan Gawronski, a Scout mother and organizer of the Stations of the Cross service; and Pattie Maier, Troop 33 leader.

## Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [frajm@st-joseph.cc](mailto:frajm@st-joseph.cc)

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## Making a splash



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Charlotte Catholic High School swim team celebrate their win at the regional championships in Huntersville Feb. 2. Both the men's and women's teams won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A swimming and diving championships in Raleigh Feb. 9.

### CCHS swim team captures state title

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — It was a whirlwind season for the Charlotte Catholic High School swim team, which recently won both men's and women's North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A swimming and diving championships at N.C. State University's Willis Casey Aquatic Center in Raleigh Feb. 9.

"It was a great year for all of us, and it was definitely an awesome way for the seniors to end their final season swimming for Charlotte Catholic," said men's team captain Mark Lascara.

The win marked the fourth consecutive state title for the men's team

and the seventh consecutive state title for the women's team.

"We went into states after winning regionals by over 130 points, so our heads were held high but we didn't take anything for granted," said Lascara.

The men beat runner-up Lake Norman High School by 133.5 points and the women beat second-place Ronald Wilson Reagan High School by 102.8 points.

"I must give credit for our success to the coach, Brian Gross," said women's team captain Kathryn Turner.

This was Gross' fourth year coaching the Charlotte Catholic swim team; assistant coach was Molly Meehan.

## Mustangs stomp at Shamrock



COURTESY PHOTO

The Mustangs varsity boys basketball team of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem are pictured after winning the Shamrock Tournament in Charlotte Feb. 24. The Mustangs second won the championship for the second straight year. Also pictured are coaches and cheerleaders.

## Taking the court(s)



COURTESY PHOTO BY MIKE PROVENZANO

The Villains varsity girls basketball team at Bishop McGuiness High School in Kernersville are pictured after beating Pender County High School 56-43 in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Class 1-A state championship game March 15. The Villains became the fourth team in the last 35 years to win the state championship for the third straight year.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Dolphins basketball team of Sacred Heart School in Salisbury is pictured after winning the Central Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association's conference championship tournament in Winston-Salem Feb. 16. Also pictured are coaches Derron and Trish Dulkoski (with their son, Kaiden).



COURTESY PHOTO

The junior varsity girls' basketball team at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro is pictured after placing first in the Piedmont Elementary Catholic School Athletic Association tournament held at Bishop McGuiness High School in Kernersville Feb. 15-17. Also pictured are coaches Pete LaMuraglia and Coach John Prendergast.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Spring — a good time to check your beneficiaries

As we welcome daylight savings time and the official arrival of spring, many of us are in the process of gathering documents for income tax returns. This is also a very good time for an estate plan review.

When was the last time you checked the beneficiary designation on your employer benefit plans? When was the last time you checked the beneficiary designation on your own property, such as life insurance and IRAs?

The beneficiary designations on these contractual arrangements are just as important as the provisions of your last will and testament or trust. The beneficiary designation will control, for example, who gets life insurance proceeds at your death.

Your estate planning objectives may change from time to time, and your beneficiary designations also must change to reflect your new plan. Perhaps in filling out your employment forms or opening an IRA you did not designate any beneficiary, thinking you would do this later. If you do not follow through with this, it could mean that these benefits are not included in your estate plan as you intended.

There are many consequences of not keeping your beneficiary designations up to date. If the beneficiary you named dies before you, the proceeds of the life insurance or other benefit may be paid instead to that person's estate, which may not be your intention at all.

Or, at best, the proceeds would be paid to your estate, perhaps requiring a probate court proceeding to determine the distribution of funds to beneficiaries. You may have intended to benefit individuals or charities other than those the court decides.

To avoid some of these problems with your benefits, you should designate a contingent beneficiary. For example, you could name your living trust as a contingent beneficiary on your benefit plans.

### Guest Column

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



In that case, if the primary beneficiary predeceases you, at your death the proceeds will be paid to your trust and distributed according to the terms of your trust agreement as part of your overall estate plan.

It may also fit very well in your estate plan to name your church, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocesan foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte as the contingent beneficiary of your benefit plans. If your primary beneficiary predeceases you, you will then be helping to sustain Christ's ministries for future generations.

Another suggestion for beneficiary designation on life insurance or retirement plans: name the church as beneficiary of a percent of the plan. Beneficiary designations can be divided up in any manner you choose, and including the church in your designations leaves a wonderful legacy of your faith.

Estate planning professionals advise reviewing your estate planning documents — wills, trusts and durable powers of attorney — every few years to assure they continue to meet your objectives and family situation. For the review of your estate plan to be complete, you should also be sure to review your benefit plan beneficiary designations.

*Judy Smith is planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## Prayers can foster peace

I was struck by two quotes from columns in the March 21 issue.

Tony Magliano ("Resurrecting our faith"): "Why do so many Christians instead act as though evils like hunger, poverty, abortion and war are insurmountable facts of life? Has it not occurred that he who conquered sin and death can surely guide and strengthen us to transform our hurting world?"

And Pope Benedict XVI ("Pope expresses hope that Easter Week, Easter rituals deepen faith"): "We know that hatred, division, violence never have the last word in history's events."

Remember how many years that Catholics prayed for the conversion of Russia, and then it happened? I don't think any of us could have accomplished that as

humans, but our prayers were answered.

My hope is that we can start, as a church, praying for a conversion to peacefulness of all peoples, especially for suicide bombers in the Middle East. They believe in God, and are doing what they do because of their belief. We must ask God to change their ways of thinking, from violence to peaceful ways to serve Him.

As humans, we cannot bring this about, but as people of God, we can ask his help to accomplish it. With God all things are possible.

— Nancy Mosley  
Charlotte

### Letters to the Editor

## An Easter morning reflection

*A story as sure and true as the turning of the earth*

It was a day that began like all other days.

Morning broke as it always had since that first morning at the dawn of time. Darkness gave way to light as the first rays of the sun stretched over the horizon. Humanity awakened, yawned and set about the arduous tasks the new morning always brings.

No one on earth had any idea that this day of all days would change the world like no other before it or since. In fact, those who were closest at that moment perhaps stood the farthest away, even as they stood on the brink of its discovery.

They were in mourning — a deep, confused and fearful sort of mourning. A mourning born of witnessing the betrayal, torture and murder of a beloved friend and teacher.

An empty and hollow mourning that fills a person's soul with the overwhelming heaviness that comes when you feel you've lost everything, even hope.

These were people who had just spent three years following a man for whom they'd given up homes, careers and even families to follow. These were people who had sat at this man's feet and tried to understand his radical teachings about a loving God he called his Father.

They'd been with him and watched as he healed the sick and drove out demons. They'd seen him feed thousands with a handful of food and watched as he walked on water. They'd seen him calm storms and had even watched as he brought the dead back to life.

This man was their master, their teacher and their Savior. And they'd just buried him.

It isn't hard to imagine what that select group must have felt at the moment when it was the darkest just before that first Easter dawn. What it must have been like for Peter and James and John. And Andrew, Phillip and Bartholomew. Matthew, Thomas, Jude Thaddeus, James the Less and Simon.

These weren't learned men. Nor were they leaders. And from what we read of them in the Scriptures, they weren't very good followers either. For even as hard as they tried, it seems that more often than not they got the Master's message wrong, lost faith and sometimes just plain missed the mark altogether.

Yet they stayed the course and followed their friend. Followed him to the bitter end, which is exactly where it appeared they were now. They were sad, lost and dejected, and even hiding

### Guest Column

BILL MELTON  
GUEST COLUMNIST



in fear for their very lives for having associated with this man they literally had worshipped.

Then the dawn began to break over their sadness, just as the first rays of light pull a new morning over the horizon, when a few of them went to the tomb and found it empty.

This new emptiness of the tomb brought hope to some of them and doubts to others.

And who wouldn't have doubted, given all they had been through?

But through all of this, not one of them gave up and went home, or tried to find another savior to follow.

Even when conventional human logic and reason would have told most of us that it was high time to throw in the towel, these 11 hand-picked men all hung tough and hung together.

Oh, they huddled and hid at first, but then something happened — something that took a group of disciples who, in three years, could never seem to get the Master's message right, and transformed them into 11 dynamic, highly-motivated preachers and teachers of the Gospel of Christ.

For me, it's this transformation that proves more than anything else that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. It could only be truth and the touch of the Master's pierced hand that could pick up 11 distraught human beings, dust them off and then send them out preaching the Gospel to the four corners of the earth.

Without them, we would never have known. Without them, we too would have had no hope, even though the tomb was empty. Somebody had to tell the story.

So Easter morning should have us thanking God for the message of salvation that comes through his Son, Jesus Christ. And thanking God also for the messengers who brought Him to us.

It is a day that makes every day for those who believe a glorious new day like no other.

*W.S. "Bill" Melton Jr., a humorist and convert, is a parishioner of St. Michael Church in Gastonia.*

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy. The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.



# Security over liberty?

*"If we restrict liberty to obtain security, we will lose them both."*

— Ben Franklin

As we now live in a post 9/11 era, dominated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its concerns for America's security, we have to ask ourselves if the message of Ben Franklin holds true in the current environment.

If we look at the issue of immigration and its subsequent handling by DHS instead of the State Department, we realize there is no appeal process for the undocumented immigrant. This estimated population of 12 million is living in fear and in the realization that any hope for "suspension of deportation" is nil.

The immigration issues are not always clear cut but their study is relevant to the democratic process. If we look at this wonderful experiment in liberty and freedom that our forefathers created, we will find the pillars of democracy include: a free press, a transparent judiciary, an educated population and a strong federal reserve.

Franklin's sage advice was to alert citizens of the newly-formed democracy to the delicate balance that exists between liberty and security.

Let's look at our country and the North Carolina community today in light of Ben Franklin's statement.

The U.S. House barely rejected a bill that would have made it a felony for any U.S. citizen to aid or assist an undocumented immigrant, directly or indirectly, during the employment process.

Bank of America offered a bank card to enable immigrants forwarding monies home to families who are very

often living in poverty. But the media-directed public opinion classified any aid to potential undocumented immigrants as a mechanism for sending funds to would-be terrorists.

Current records will show that there are approximately 300,000 undocumented immigrants living in North Carolina.

We live at a time of unparalleled opportunity and in a state that houses several of the largest banks in the world. Surely, the North Carolina banking community, the political establishment, the local media and the Chamber of Commerce — assisted through its various business outreach committees — could put forth an immigration alternative to the politically correct indecisiveness spawned by this election year.

If we as Catholics view democracy as participatory and borne of civility, then surely we should be leaders in developing and effecting solutions for immigration reform.

Thomas Paine stated "that which we obtain too easily, we esteem too lightly. It is dearness only which gives everything its value."

The U.S. bishops' recommendations for comprehensive immigration reform include:

— The issue of separation: U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents endure long years of separation from family members while waiting on a backlog of available visas, often waiting up to 15 or more years for the visa to become available.

Recommendation: Pending backlogs should be reduced and more visas made available so that families can be reunified.

— The issue of lack of access to due

## Active Faith

WHITNEY  
NORTON  
GUEST COLUMNIST



process: Immigrants have often been subject to laws and policies that debase our country's fundamental commitment to individual liberties and due process, such as detention for months without charges, secret hearings and ethnic profiling.

Asylum seekers are also incarcerated for long periods of time while their claims for asylum are considered.

Recommendation: Government policies should not confuse immigration with terrorism. The government should revisit these laws and make the appropriate changes consistent with due process rights.

— The issue of undocumented workers: Undocumented workers who are already in the country and have formed lives here are often "stuck," having no means to become legal.

Recommendation: Those already in the country, who do not have proper immigration documentation, should be given the opportunity to obtain legalization if they can demonstrate good moral character and have built up equities in this country.

The Catholic bishops have offered a blueprint for comprehensive immigration reform, and the above issues are but a few of their recommendations. For more, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

Whitney Norton is a parishioner of St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

# The power of words

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



Jesuit Father Walter Burghardt, one of the finest priest and homilist of our times, died on Feb. 17.

The first time I met Walter was at a meeting in Washington. One by one we gave our opinions on a church issue we were discussing. When the time came for Walter to give his input, his manner of speech was striking. Every word he said had weight. He chose them with such care and spoke them in the spirit of a book he had written, "Fire in the Belly."

What does it mean to speak with weight? It means not slurring words but pronouncing every syllable. We don't have to necessarily speak slower. Rather, we need to avoid running over words so that the person listening to us doesn't miss them.

Although news commentators speak fast, their words are very clear.

Speaking with weight means knowing how to accentuate a word. Hitting the right syllable at the right moment makes it stand out and stick with us.

Speaking with weight means knowing when to raise and lower volume. When people speak loudly continuously, often their speech sounds strident. If they speak too softly, much of what they say is lost.

However, if within a sentence they hit a word hard and loud and then finish it with a soft whisper, the effect can be very moving.

Words have their greatest impact when they come from a person's heart. As soon as we hear them, we may say to ourselves, "He or she has been there and has personally experienced what they are saying. There is a ring of authenticity!"

As Americans brace themselves for more months of political speeches and decide who they want as their president, they should listen carefully to the words spoken by the candidates.

Are there too many clichés and jingles? Are words garbled, reflecting little thought behind them?

Are audiences being shouted at? Do words ring with a sense of respect and evidence that the speaker is working hard to use the right word to be as clear as possible?

If Father Burghardt were still alive, I think he would finally ask, "Do you sense fire in the belly? Is there heart and soul in what they are saying — do their words ring with an energy that says down deep, I believe?"

Remember, words are who we are!

*Editor's note: There was no weekly general audience April 2; in its place, the pope presided over a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II, who died three years ago on that day. See story, page 6.*

# Am I excommunicated for having an abortion at age 16?

*Q. Last Sunday at Mass, Father spoke about God's all-forgiving love. When I was 16 years old, I discovered I was pregnant. I was frightened and had no one to turn to.*

*My family was Catholic but rarely went to Mass and was all messed up. Our parents fought a lot, and when my older sister went through a bitter divorce my mother went off the deep end and tried to kill herself. I was the one who found her. I had never discussed abortion with anyone, but my boyfriend and I felt we had no choice. I had no idea I was taking a life.*

*I'm married now to this same boyfriend. We have two beautiful children, both baptized, and we go to Mass faithfully. Even if there is no hope for my forgiveness I'm writing this hoping some parents will speak more frankly to their children, and maybe someone in my shoes will be glad I'm asking this question.*

*Can I ever be fully accepted back into the church again? Am I excommunicated? I've been through hell the past several years. I'm afraid to go to the priest in our parish, and my family knows nothing about all this.*

*With all the publicity today, young women would probably weigh their*

*options more heavily. If I knew then what I know now, I would never have done it.*

*I hope parents, no matter how depressed they may be, will watch for stress in their children. Their problems can be bigger than you think. (Indiana)*

A. In the name of all the people who may read this, I thank you for what must have been a painful letter to write. I think it will be helpful for lots of people, even for those whose spiritual fears and concerns may not be exactly the same as yours.

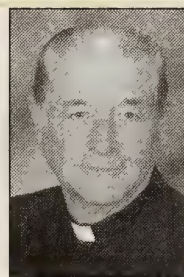
Your deep regret and sorrow, and your sincere love for yourself and God and other people, shine through in your letter. So be calm and peaceful about it.

The way for you is simple. The first requirement for forgiveness anytime is that we accept responsibility for the wrong we have done, and desire forgiveness. Apparently you have passed this point long ago.

You should receive the sacrament of reconciliation, if not with your priest then with another. There are several in your area. After that, return to holy Communion and continue your Catholic life as faithfully as you are now, and grow in it.

## Question Corner

FATHER JAMES  
DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



In this process it's not necessary to attempt to dissect the past. In fact, when we sin seriously, it is generally impossible to unravel all the good, bad and doubtful motives that influenced us.

It is usually not even healthy to try to do so after the fact. God does not expect or want this.

Finally, for a variety of reasons, you are not and have not been excommunicated. To mention only one major reason, the possible excommunication for acquiring an abortion is one of what are called automatic ("latae sententiae") excommunications.

No automatic excommunication applies to anyone who was under age 17 when the offense was committed. Therefore, it does not apply to you. (For those interested, see Canons 97 and 1323.1.)

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, e-mail [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).



# Catholics share message of Easter with others



COURTESY PHOTO

Adults and members of the parish youth ministry carry the crucified Jesus during a living Stations of the Cross service at Holy Spirit Church in Denver March 16.



COURTESY PHOTO

Children in the first-grade faith formation class at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte are pictured March 19 with Easter baskets they assembled for disadvantaged children assisted through Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. The students helped DSS reach its goal of delivering 3,000 baskets by Easter. As part of the Lenten project, the church's fifth-grade faith formation class collected canned goods and needed items to donate to Samaritan House, a nonprofit recuperative care facility for homeless individuals.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

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COURTESY PHOTO

Choir members and faith formation teachers and students at Our Lady of the Mountains Mission in Highlands are pictured making some of the 62 Easter baskets filled with chocolate candy and toys for disadvantaged children in Macon and Jackson counties. The 11th annual "Chocolate Sunday" is held the fifth Sunday of Lent. Parishioners donate the chocolate candies and members of the music and faith formation ministries donate the supplies and assemble the baskets.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LEN WALLACE

Father Sean LaBat from Columbia, S.C., blesses Easter baskets and food after a Ukrainian Mass in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School Easter Sunday, March 23. St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church celebrates the Ukrainian Mass in English every three weeks in the chapel.



Roman Catholic Diocese  
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APRIL 11, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 23

## Perspectives

*A magnificent eucatastrophe;  
healing after abortion;  
confession frequency*

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## Ascending the mountain

*Catechists explore  
sacraments, prayer  
at workshop*

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

SYLVA — In the midst of the Smoky Mountains, more than 80 people accepted the invitation to "Ascend the Mountain of the Lord," an adult faith formation and catechetical workshop.

The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation sponsored the program at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva April 5.

Presentations by various speakers were given on morality, skills and theory, the Lord's Prayer and sacraments.

"The use of symbols in the sacraments helps bring us closer to each other, to Jesus Christ and to God the

See WORKSHOP, page 4

## 'An important clarification'

*Vatican: Revised prayer  
does not reverse Vatican II  
teaching on Jews*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's revised prayer for the Jews for use in the Good Friday liturgy of the extraordinary form of the Mass does not indicate any form of stepping back from the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, the Vatican said.

See PRAYER, page 13

## FRAMING THE FUTURE

# Not your typical spring break



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Charlotte Catholic High School build a house for Hurricane Katrina victims during their spring break, March 24-29. The students spent the week doing service projects in Braithwaite, La.

## Youths build houses for Hurricane Katrina victims

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

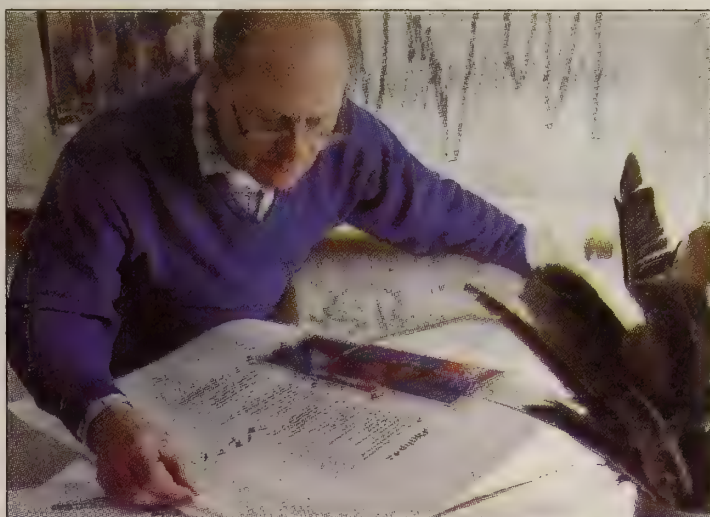
CHARLOTTE — While many of their classmates were working on their tans, 39 students from Charlotte Catholic High School spent their spring break doing work of a different sort.

Instead of flip flops and bathing suits, these students donned work boots and overalls for a week of service in Braithwaite, La.

"I didn't want a typical spring break. I wanted to actually do something more than watch TV," said senior Michaeline Nichols.

The trip, which took place from March 24-29,

See MISSION, page 9



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF LITURGICAL PRESS

Master calligrapher Donald Jackson looks over an edition of The Saint John's Bible in this undated photo. Jackson and a team of scribes spent 10 years creating the illustrated Bible using quills and handmade inks on calfskin vellum.

## 'A work for eternity'

*Scribes give pope volume of illustrated Bible*

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — It's being called the Sistine Chapel of calligraphy.

The Saint John's Bible will be the first handwritten and illuminated Bible penned with ancient methods since the invention of the printing press, according to its creators.

This Biblical work of art will contain some 160 illuminations woven into text covering 1,100 pages of calfskin vellum sheets.

A team of scribes led by a master calligrapher, Donald Jackson, has spent the last 10 years silently scratching out Biblical verses with turkey, goose and swan quills dipped in handmade inks.

They and other artists also use hand-ground pigments and gold and silver leaf to illustrate and add contrasting colors to the texts.

The huge manuscripts will

See BIBLE, page 5

##

## Knights of Columbus

*Councils welcome members,  
donate funds, more*

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## Culture Watch

*General's spiritual journey;  
performing for a pope*

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## In Memorium

*Msgr. William Pharr  
remembered*

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FAITHFULLY DEDICATED



CNS PHOTO BY ED FOSTER JR.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., makes the sign of the cross with sacred chrism on the interior wall of the Ave Maria Oratory during the dedication ceremony of the new building in the town of Ave Maria, Fla., March 31. The church sits in the center of the Catholic university community conceived by Tom Monaghan, Domino's Pizza founder and chairman of the Ave Maria Foundation.

## Bishop dedicates Ave Maria Oratory, focal point of new university

NAPLES, Fla. (CNS) — The towering, \$24 million Ave Maria Oratory that is the focal point of Ave Maria University and the town being built around it was dedicated March 31 as a quasi-parish to provide pastoral care for students, faculty, staff and residents.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice was main celebrant for a Mass and dedication of the 1,100-seat landmark church building that's 104 feet tall and topped with a 10-foot Celtic cross.

Ave Maria is one of the first Catholic universities to open in the United States in 40 years. Multimillionaire Tom Monaghan, who founded the Domino's Pizza chain, announced plans in 2002 for Ave Maria University and a town of the same name on 5,000 acres east of Naples, about 30 miles from the Gulf Coast.

He's now university chancellor.

According to its Web site: "Ave Maria is known for faithfulness to the magisterium of the Catholic Church, a caring faculty and staff, and a unique educational philosophy that strives to develop the whole person."

Classes began on the permanent campus this past fall, and construction of the Ave Maria Oratory was completed early this year.

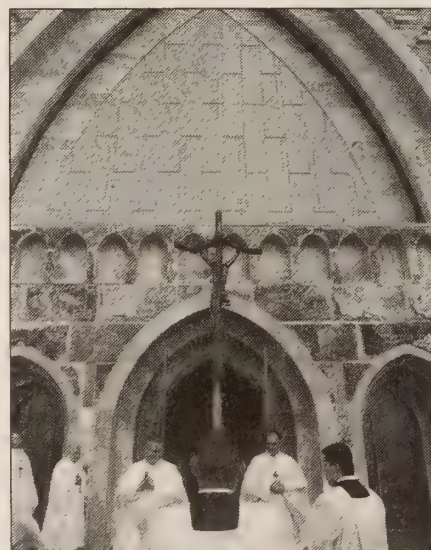
The town's planned 11,000 homes and commercial development are expected to be built over the next decade or more.

"As the faithful of this new quasi-parish, the students, faculty and residents of the town will have a place of worship, not only to participate in the holy

Eucharist, but to receive all other sacraments and enrich their spiritual life, including the moral values of faith and devotions," Bishop Dewane wrote in a statement announcing the dedication.

Father Robert Tatman, a priest of the Venice Diocese, has been named administrator of the church.

Canon law indicates "a quasi-parish is a definite community of the Christian faithful in a particular church, entrusted to a priest as its proper pastor but not yet erected as a parish because of particular circumstances."



CNS PHOTO BY ED FOSTER JR.

Father Robert Tatman (second from right) processes out of the newly dedicated Ave Maria Oratory in the town of Ave Maria, Fla., after the dedication ceremony March 31.

## Conscience questions remain after Catholic pharmacist loses appeal

MADISON, Wis. (CNS) — Although a Wisconsin judge upheld the official reprimand of a Catholic pharmacist who refused to dispense a contraceptive drug to a college student or transfer the prescription to another pharmacy, debate on the issue of conscience rights was continuing in the state.

In a March 24 decision, 3rd District Court Judge Michael Hoover rejected pharmacist Neil Noesen's appeal of sanctions imposed on him by the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board in 2005.

However, an official of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference said the judge nevertheless acknowledged that conscience rights under the state constitution are even broader than those granted by the U.S. Constitution.

Kim Wadas, the Catholic conference's associate director for education and health care, said Hoover's affirmation of conscience rights was a step

in the right direction.

"We were excited to see some of that language, which continued to recognize that pharmacists have a right of conscience," Wadas said. "This is something we advocate for on behalf of health professionals, especially Catholic health professionals."

The Noesen case dates to 2002, when he refused to dispense FE 1/20, a hormonal contraceptive, to Amanda Phiede, who was a student at the University of Wisconsin in Stout.

Hoover's ruling upheld the state pharmacy board's reprimand and limited Noesen's pharmacy license so that he would be required to notify a potential employer of his inability to distribute certain drugs and detail in writing how he would ensure the patient's access to those drugs.

Noesen's lawyer said he would appeal the decision to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — "Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow," a grief education event, will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center. Presenter will be Janice Olive of Hospice and Palliative Care. For more information, call BJ at (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — The *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will take place Saturday, April 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center gym. All adults are invited to join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere. There is no charge to attend the event.

CHARLOTTE — *Ultreya* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sunday April 20, 12-2 p.m. in rooms 125/132 in the New Life Center — please note this is a change. There will be no pot luck this month. Babysitting is available, but you must contact Vickie Torres at (704) 543-7677 ext. 1011 to reserve a spot for your children. Guest speaker this month will be Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast. All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Lisa or Todd Wilson at (704) 543-9764.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Senior Group* of Holy Spirit Church meets once a month for fun and fellowship. All seniors are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at Debra Mattison's house, 4 Brook Meadows Lane, 7 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jebkraft@juno.com](mailto:jebkraft@juno.com).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

## Grandparents are precious resource for families, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Grandparents are a precious resource for families, the church and society, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"So-called new models of the family and rampant relativism" have weakened the core values of traditional families, and such societal ills need an urgent response, the pope said.

In order to overcome the crises and threats today's families are facing, people could start by turning to "the presence and witness of their grandparents" whose visions and values have more solid foundations, he said.

The pope made his comments April 5 during an audience with participants in the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The April 3-5 meeting discussed "Grandparents: Their Testimony and Presence in the Family."

The pope said current economic and social conditions have relegated the elderly to the sidelines, when in the past

grandparents played a more important role in the life and growth of the family, including sharing their memories and wisdom with others.

But today, many elderly find themselves left in a sort of "parking lot," he said, while others may feel they are too much of a burden for their families and so choose to live alone or in a nursing home.

People must band together to prevent the alienation of the elderly and to help them be more integrated in society and the family, he said, because if people really do believe grandparents are a precious resource then more must be done to better show their worth.

The pope asked that "grandparents continue to be witnesses of unity (and) values based on loyalty to a single love that generates faith and the joy of life."

Grandparents should never be excluded from families as they represent "a treasure that we cannot snatch from the newer generations," he added.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic, 'A Woman's Choice,' 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

GREENSBORO — The Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. The group will be studying Colossians during the month of April. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

NEWTON — The Secular Franciscans will hold an ecumenical day of reflection at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St., Saturday, April 19. Presenter will be Rev. Fred Thompson, retired pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Newton. The theme is "I Pray That They May All Be One." Reflection will take place 10 a.m.-12 p.m., followed by lunch 12-1 p.m. There is no charge. To register, call (828) 464-8363 or (828) 459-7918.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church Senior Fun & Games meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572 for more information.

SALISBURY — Elizabeth Ministry is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — Adult education classes are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — The Catholic Women's Circle of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Dignity of the Human Person" April 20, 3-5 p.m., as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, call (336) 723-1092 or e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Pope says he wants to bring message of hope to U.S., U.N.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a videotaped message, Pope Benedict XVI said he wants to bring a message of Christian hope to all Americans and to the United Nations when he visits in Washington and New York April 15-20.

"I shall come to the United States as pope for the first time to proclaim this great truth: Jesus Christ is hope for men and women of every language, race, culture and social condition," the pope said.

He said he intends to reach out spiritually to U.S. Catholics and show fraternity and friendship to other Christians, to followers of other religions and to all people of good will.

The text of the papal message, released April 8, was designed to set the thematic stage for the pope's April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York.

Rather than focus on specific events, the pope spoke about the theme of his visit, "Christ Our Hope." Those three words express the church's belief that Christ is the face of God in human history and gives fullness to people's lives, he said.

"I know how deeply rooted this

Gospel message is in your country. I am coming to share it with you, in a series of celebrations and gatherings," he said.

He thanked people for their prayers for the success of his visit, saying that "prayer is the most important element of all." Without intimate union with the Lord, he said, human endeavors would mean very little.

The pope said his message of Christian hope had particular relevance to the United Nations, at a time when the world needs hope more than ever before — hope for peace, justice and freedom.

But he said this hope can never be fulfilled without obedience to the law of God, which Christ expressed in the commandment to love one another.

The pope said that although his itinerary will take him only to two cities, his visit aims to reach out to everyone, especially those in need.

### WANT THE TEXT?

The text of the papal message can be found online at [www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0801882.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0801882.htm).

## Cut out to be pope



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Father Ray Wadas poses with a life-size cutout image of Pope Benedict XVI outside the gift shop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington April 6. The pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Takoma Park, Md., said he wanted to have his photo taken with the cutout because it was "as close as I'm going to get" to the pope.

## Speakers at memorial Mass recall Buckley's deep faith, lasting impact

NEW YORK (CNS) — Mourners remembered William F. Buckley Jr. at an April 4 memorial Mass as a man of deep faith and unfailing confidence in the Catholic Church who brought people to believe in God and inspired vocations to the priesthood.

"His tongue was the pen of a ready writer" and his "words were strong enough to help crack the walls of an evil empire," according to Father George W. Rutler, celebrant at the memorial Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

"His categories were not right and left but right and wrong," Father Rutler said. "What graces he had to change a century came by his belief in Christ, who has changed all centuries."

Buckley, the erudite spokesman for the conservative political movement in the United States, died in Stamford, Conn., Feb. 27 at 82. He was the founder of the National Review magazine, hosted the weekly "Firing Line" television program for 33 years and wrote more than 50 books.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 14 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro

April 15-18  
Papal Mass and meeting  
Washington, D.C.

April 19 (4 p.m.)  
Stewardship conference Mass  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Concord

April 21 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point



## Catechists explore sacraments, prayer at workshop

WORKSHOP, from page 1

Father," said Father John Denny, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, during his presentation on sacraments.

Human beings communicate through signs, symbols, and rituals. Sacraments are "efficacious symbols"; that is, they bring about the desired effect. A stop sign communicates — it tells you to stop — but it isn't efficacious: it can't reach out and stop you.

According to the catechism, sacraments "are efficacious because in them Christ himself is at work; it is he who baptizes, he who acts in his sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each sacrament signifies."

"Sacramental life is a constant invitation from God to live in relationship with him," Father Denny said.

In "Response to the Call According to States of Life," Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, also spoke of the invitation to be in relationship with Christ.

In Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, calls his first disciples, who immediately follow him.

"Jesus doesn't command; he invites," Father Kauth said.

That invitation, he said, "captures [the disciples] immediately. Their lives are going to change radically. Following Christ, you have to move. It's not stagnant."

Like Jesus' first disciples, Father Kauth said, we are moving.

"You're on a pilgrimage — that image has a lot of merit," Father Kauth said. "You are climbing up or you are sliding down. You cannot absorb the spiritual life by osmosis, and you cannot get home [to heaven] by standing still."

"You're going to be asked by Christ to give yourself away," Father Kauth said. "God promises little when he calls, but then requires more and more. You settle down to the real work of giving yourself and in that you are sanctified."

### Living the Lord's Prayer

In his presentation on the Lord's Prayer, Jim Greer, pastoral associate at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler, talked about giving oneself away, or losing oneself, and in that giving or losing we find resurrection as new persons.

"We've all experienced having things wrenched away from us," Greer said. When Jesus gave his life away at age 33, he said, it was "in a very degrading and humiliating way."

Giving his life on Good Friday led to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. It's the same for us, Greer said. We've all lost something or someone important to us, but, "We've all experienced resurrection," he said.

People spoke of their own resurrection moments, which led to intimacy with God: caring for an ill husband, loss of a friend or relative, returning to the practice of the Catholic faith, being with both parents as they died.



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Exchanging blessings are Victor Lopez (left), a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, and Eduardo Bernal, Smoky Mountain Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator, during a workshop at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva April 5.

"We are the Lord's Prayer," he said. "It's not 'pray this way,' it's 'be this way.'"

To pray the Our Father more intimately, Greer asked all present to close their eyes. After he said each word, they repeated that word softly and appreciated it before the next word was said.

For catechists wanting presentations in Spanish, Jesuit Father Bill Ameche offered "The Call to be a Catechist" in the morning and "Skills and Theory" in the afternoon.

Father Ameche helps with Hispanic ministry in the Asheville Vicariate and in other vicariates as needed.

For all present, "what I gave them was a different way of looking at catechesis," Father Ameche said later. "Many times, catechesis in the United States is a class, and then you graduate."

He favors catechesis through ongoing, lived experience, such as seeing God's love in the ordinary experiences of everyday life, in the things we take for granted.

In helping people experience the gift of faith, we can be impediments or helpers. An important part of catechesis involves helping people see God's gifts and God's love.

"God shows love for us through his gifts to us," Father Ameche said. "When we experience those gifts, we know that God has given us love."

The person experiences God's love through experiencing others' love for him or her.

During his 30 years of working in Mexico, Father Ameche said, "The best catechist I ever worked with when I lived in Chihuahua couldn't read or write. She had very deep faith, she was very loving, and the children knew that."

She combined her love with asking those who could read to share their book knowledge.

Father Ameche said "a good catechist has an open heart."

"What can we do with our gifts?" he asked. "We can accept God's invitation."

## Weathering the challenges



COURTESY PHOTO

Beatrice Thompson, news and public affairs director of WBAV-FM radio and 2008 honorary walk chairperson, listens to former House of Mercy resident Michael Hardesty speak to walk participants during House of Mercy's 15th annual Walk for AIDS in Belmont April 5.

More than 100 people braved rain and slick streets to help raise more than \$32,000 and awareness for House of Mercy, established in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide compassionate nursing care to persons living with advanced AIDS.

Hardesty shared how House of Mercy transformed his life during a challenging crisis with AIDS.

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# Scribe gives pope volume of illustrated Bible

BIBLE, from page 1

The pope said,  
"This is a work for  
eternity."

— Donald Jackson,  
master calligrapher

be bound into seven volumes that measure two feet tall and, when open, three feet wide. Five of those volumes are now complete.

U.S. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington and president of the U.S.-based Papal Foundation, called the project "one of those special moments in the life of biblical art."

He was part of a delegation that met with Pope Benedict XVI April 4 to present him with a high-quality, rare reproduction of the first volume of The Saint John's Bible.

The pope, a great lover of books and sacred Scripture, was awed — his eyes glistening "with great joy" as he said, "This is a great work of art," the cardinal said at a press conference soon after.

Jackson said the pope told him, "This is a work for eternity," to which the artist said he replied, "It certainly feels like it sometimes."

## Writing from the heart

At the press conference, Jackson asked the question most people might pose: "Why do it? I mean it's a crazy idea to turn the clock back 500 years" in this day and age of computers and laser-jet printers.

But he said the tools of the old medieval scribes "enable you to write the words of God from the heart."

And by creating such a hefty, richly illustrated book whose pages look and even feel special, the reader is being told to "slow down, set this volume down carefully" and meditate over each and every word; it is not something to flip through casually, Jackson said.

In fact, one of the aims of this project, commissioned in 1998 by the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minn., is to glorify the word of God.

Jackson said modern technology has "solved the problem of dissemination. Every hotel room has a choice of one, if not two, Bibles in the nightstand."

But often mass-produced Bibles are

printed with small, cramped type on cheap "onion-skin" thin paper and put what should be thought-provoking passages of God's word "in a straitjacket," he said.

The Bible needs to also reach out to the human senses, not just the intellect, he said.

The Saint John's Bible, with its large pages and creatively arranged text, "invites one to linger over phrases, words and even letters" and "presents the word of God as something special," said one of the project's many press releases.

Even the artwork, which ranges from Byzantine icons to modern styles and botanically correct renderings of insects and plants, is meant to invite the reader toward greater reflection.

Jackson said he and his scribes have had "to let go of modern conceptions of perfection" and of creating a flawlessly copied text. They cannot, after all, hit the delete button or use correction fluid to cover up mistakes.

Small errors can be scraped away with a sharp knife-edge, he said, but a more common "occupational hazard" of accidentally omitting a line is not so simply corrected.

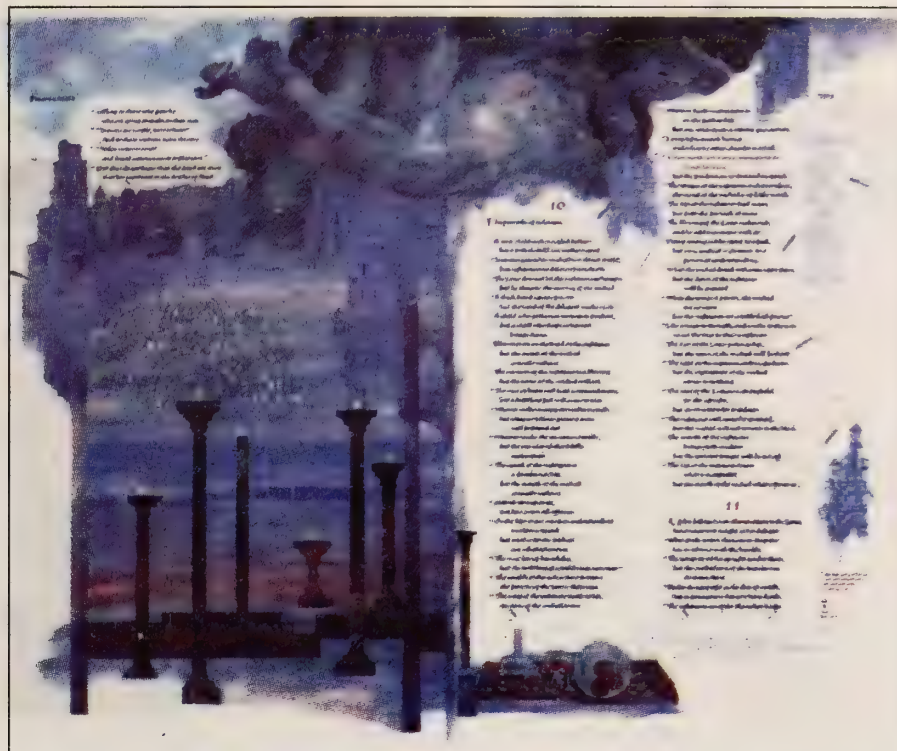
But with the help of their artists they have been able to turn "what was a disaster into something charming," Jackson said.

For example, an artist has drawn a small bird grasping a rope that holds a banner upon which is written the missing verse. The bird is pointing its beak to where the line should go while appearing to be hoisting the forgotten line back where it belongs.

A chubby bumblebee does the same thing in another volume, only she is using a pulley system copied from one of Leonardo da Vinci's sketchbooks.

## Rediscovering the importance

A limited number of high-quality,



CNS PHOTOS COURTESY OF LITURGICAL PRESS

Above: The "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" illustrates pages from the Book of Wisdom in The Saint John's Bible. Master calligrapher Donald Jackson and a team of scribes spent 10 years creating the Bible. Below: The image "Christ our Light" is seen on a page from The Saint John's Bible.

full-size, fine art reproductions have been produced for special benefactors. The pope's rare copy was a gift from St. John's University and Abbey purchased on behalf of a trustee from the U.S.-based Papal Foundation.

The gift and its publicity come the same year the world Synod of Bishops is gathering at the Vatican this fall to discuss the importance of sacred Scripture.

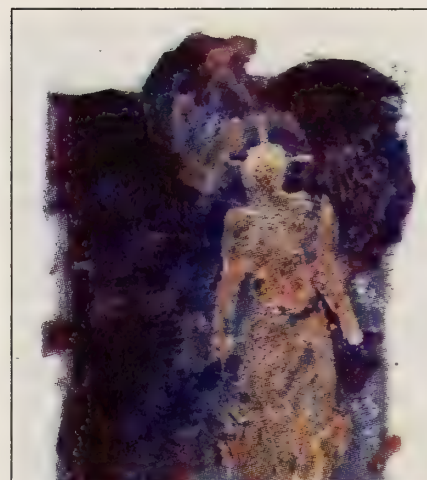
Synod leaders have said they hope the meeting can address what is seen as a lack of appreciation and understanding of the Bible among Catholics.

Pope Benedict has said the Bible "requires special veneration and obedience" by all Christians, and he said he hoped the synod process would help Catholics "rediscover the importance of the Word of God in the life of every Christian."

The Saint John's Bible uses the New Revised Standard Version and, when completed in 2009, will include volumes that include Gospels and Acts, Psalms, Pentateuch, Historical Books, Prophets, Wisdom Literature, and Letters and Revelation.

The finished original manuscript crafted by Jackson and his team will reside at a special museum on the St. John's University campus.

It is not the first time Jackson brought a piece of his "Sistine Chapel"



to the Vatican; he also gave Pope John Paul II a limited-edition prototype of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles at the Vatican in 2004.

While unique, these papal copies of The Saint John's Bible are not the only rare specimens of sacred Scripture to grace the Vatican's bookshelves.

The Vatican Library has a fourth-century Codex B manuscript — a complete text of the Bible in Greek — as well as two copies of the Gutenberg Bible.

This Bible was one of the first books printed by the movable type process invented by Johann Gutenberg in 1455, and only about 60 copies remain.

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# Pope: Take Gospel to those who've divorced, had abortions

*Knights co-sponsor international conference on 'destructive forces'*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said the church must bring the "Gospel of mercy" to those involved in abortion and divorce, showing sensitivity to the inner burdens they bear.

He made the remarks April 5 in a meeting with participants of an international conference on the aftermath of abortion and divorce.

The Rome conference, themed "Oil on the Wounds: A Response to the Aftermath of Divorce and Abortion," was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

"As an organization organized to protect families, we think it is absolutely necessary for society to take note of the effects of divorce and abortion, two things that do the most damage to the integrity of families in our society," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, who moderated the opening session of the conference.

"It is our hope that this conference will spur a greater ministry within the Catholic Church to these children whose stable family structure has been shattered, and to these parents, who grieve the abortion of their unborn child — often in isolation and silence," he said.

Speakers came from eight countries, including several from Italy and the United States.

"Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have often spoken of the importance of the family as the cornerstone of society, and both divorce and abortion strike at the heart of that cornerstone," said Msgr. Livio Melina, president of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family headquartered at the Vatican.

"We are here to discuss how the church can help heal the wounds left by these two destructive forces," he said.

During the conference, Pope Benedict said both abortion and divorce had created much suffering in modern society, particularly among innocent victims, leaving wounds that affect people's lives permanently.

He said abortion in particular produces "devastating consequences" for the woman involved, for the family and for society, helping promote a materialistic mentality that shows contempt for life.

"How much selfish complicity often lies at the root of the painful decision that so many women have had to make alone and whose unhealed wound they carry in their souls," he said.

To women who have had an abortion, the pope urged them not to be overwhelmed by discouragement and hopelessness and to open themselves to repentance.

The pope said the church's ethical teachings about abortion and divorce are well known. Although they are of a different nature, both acts are considered grave offenses to human dignity and an

offense to God, he said.

In addition, he said, both abortion and divorce create innocent victims: "the child recently conceived and still unborn and the children affected by the breakup of family ties."

He said one of the church's pastoral priorities should be to help children of divorced parents, as much as is possible, to maintain ties with both parents and to be aware of their family origins.

At the same time, the pope said, the church recognizes that such decisions are often made in dramatic and difficult circumstances and that they also bring suffering to those who commit them.

"Following the example of the divine teacher, the church always takes an interest in the concrete person," he said.

Many of the men and women involved in abortion and divorce are troubled by guilt and "are looking for peace and the possibility of recovery," and the church must approach them with love and sensitivity, he said.

"Yes, the Gospel of love and life is also always the Gospel of mercy, offered to the real and sinful people that we are, to raise them from any failing and repair any wound," he said.

The pope quoted Pope John Paul II to emphasize that by showing mercy, the church demonstrates its faith in the human being and in human freedom.

Although public opinion is often focused on the church's "no's" in matters of morality, its teachings are really "a great 'yes' to the human person, to his life and his capacity to love," he said.

The pope said the public debate over issues like abortion and divorce is often purely ideological, neglecting the real needs of those directly involved. This is where the church is called upon to offer an attitude of merciful love, he said.

## Leading the procession



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus St. Gregory Council 6700 lead a procession to St. Michael Church in Gastonia on Palm Sunday, March 16.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# New Knights in Charlotte

*Council conducts new member ceremony in honor of pope's upcoming visit*

CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus Council 10852 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte conducted a first degree ceremony for five new members at the South Charlotte Banquet Center Feb. 16.

In honor of Pope Benedict XVI's first papal visit to the United States in April, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson decreed that all first degree ceremonies conducted through June 30 should be in the pope's honor.

As such, special commemorative certificates were given to the new members to mark the occasion.

"Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the United States certainly is cause for celebration and the Knights of Columbus, like all Catholics, eagerly anticipate the occasion," said Grand Knight Richard White of council 10852.

"Inducting members into the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal brotherhood dedicated to charitable works, is always momentous and the Feb. 16 ceremony was no exception," he said.

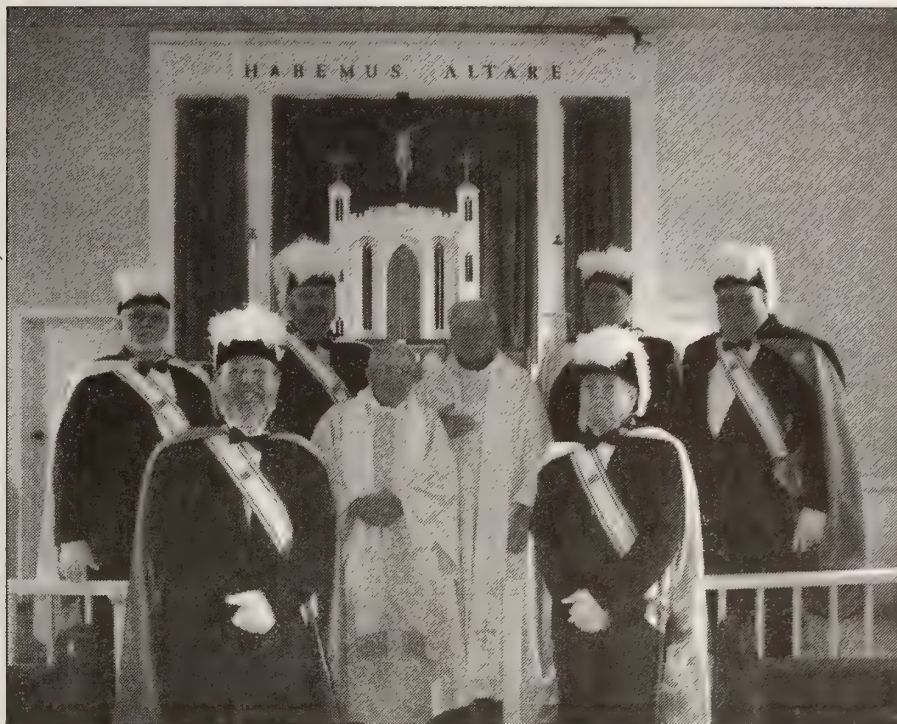
"We are humbled to have the opportunity to honor the pope and the blessing of his upcoming visit through our first degree ceremony," said White.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 10852 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte are pictured during a first degree ceremony Feb. 16. Pictured (from left): Grand Knight Richard White, Charles Muller (holding the commemorative certificate), District Deputy Ed Switzer, Dwight Crawford, Aaron Kamenick, Scott Minick, Paul Steward and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Desch.

# St. Joseph celebration



COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, a monk of Belmont Abbey, are pictured with members of Knights of Columbus William Gaston Assembly 2531 at St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly March 15. The priests celebrated the annual Mass at the church in honor of the feast of St. Joseph (March 19).

Built by Irish immigrants in 1843, St. Joseph Church is the second oldest Catholic church in North Carolina. For more information or for a tour of the grounds, call Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont at (704) 825-9600.

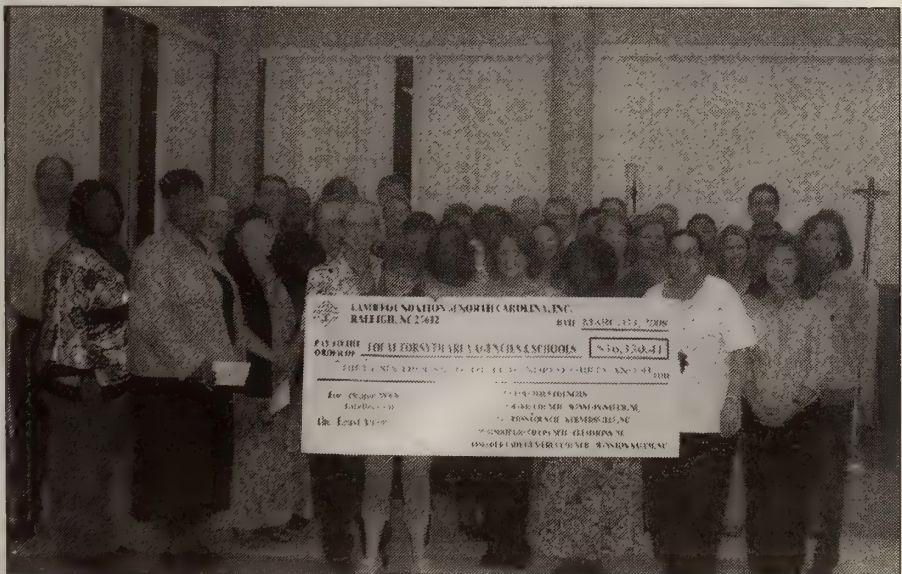
# Knightly donations

WINSTON-SALEM — Four Knights of Columbus councils in Forsyth County hosted a dinner, at which they dispersed donations to county schools and agencies, at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem March 13.

The councils — 2829, 8509, 9499 and 10504 — raised the funds through their annual Tootsie Roll sales outside

area stores as part of their Operation L.A.M.B. (Least Among My Brethren) campaign.

John Gouldie, Knights state deputy, and Greg Kent, Knights state treasurer, were in attendance at the dinner, as well as a number of Forsyth County schools and agencies that provide services to children with mental disabilities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Forsyth County schools and agencies hold a giant check during a dinner hosted by four Knights of Columbus councils at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem March 13.

# Prayerful weekend



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 9499 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons are pictured during their fifth annual Lenten council retreat at Camp Hanes in King March 8-9. Father Kenneth Parker, a retired priest from the Diocese of Raleigh, led the retreat, which featured a number of speakers focusing on prayer.

"The Mass and the talks by all the presenters were times of special grace for us all," said Father Parker. "The Lord's holy presence throughout the weekend flooded all with his love and peace."

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).



# A month in Africa

*CSS employee gains insight into lives of refugees*

BY KATIE MOORE -  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For Jennifer Girard, a trip to Africa meant a month away from the office, but it didn't mean a vacation from work.

Girard, who works as the English as a second language (ESL) coordinator for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, spent the month of February in Burundi, a country located in central Africa on the southern border of Rwanda. There she worked as a volunteer with Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

LWF is a nongovernmental, faith-based organization whose mission is to "uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed," according to its Web site.

Over the past 15 years, conflict in Burundi has resulted in the displacement of more than 100,000 people. A civil war between Hutu and Tutsi factions broke out in 1993 following the assassination of Burundi's first democratically elected president. Although a ceasefire was issued in 2006, conditions in Burundi remain unstable.

Girard spent her time working at the LWF office in Burundi, traveling to several project intervention sites in rural Burundi and visiting a refugee camp in

neighboring Tanzania.

The trip to Africa gave her a better understanding of the interconnected nature of the world.

"How we choose to live affects other people on the other side of the world," said Girard, who works in Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte.

"You don't realize what you take for granted until you don't have ready access to it," she said as she recalled having limited access to power, water and food in Burundi.

"There was one place that only had electricity for certain hours of the day," she said.

"I have met several Burundian Hutu families who came to Charlotte as refugees in July 2007," she said. "They were part of the small group in Tanzanian refugee camps allowed to come to the U.S."

As the ESL coordinator, it is her job to help refugees learn English and adjust to life in the United States.

Girard said one reason for wanting to go to Africa was "to gain a better understanding into the lives of refugees overseas." She said she hoped the experience would allow her to provide "a greater foundation from which to serve them here."



COURTESY PHOTO

CSS employee Jennifer Girard gets a lesson in basket weaving in Cendajuru, Africa, a mountain village located near the Tanzanian border. Girard spent the month of February volunteering in Africa with Lutheran World Federation.

"When I went over there, I had all these questions that I thought I would ask the people," she said. "What are your hopes for the future? What are your dreams? But then I realized it's all about survival. Everyone is living on the edge of life and death."

One of the most visible signs of hope she witnessed was the overwhelming turnout at a 7 a.m. Mass one Sunday. More than 1,000 people packed the pews of the community church.

"We had to get there early because it was standing room only," said Girard who recalled the streams of people coming from all directions by foot.

There is a strong sense of faith among the refugees.

"Their hope is in God. They sense that very keenly and it's very real to them," said Girard.

## Resettling Refugees

How do you teach a refugee to speak English and adapt to life in the United States?

- Refugees undergo individual interviews and assessments to determine their English speaking ability and educational background.
- Refugees are enrolled in English classes sponsored by CSS. Classes are offered at various times and locations for the refugees' convenience.
- Classes cover survival skills and basic topics such as housing, community locations, driving, money and food.
- Teachers use visuals — pictures, videos and skits — to portray different scenarios.
- Refugees typically attend classes for a minimum of six months, but some continue taking classes for years.
- Once they get past the basic level, refugees can take classes on specialized topics such as math or vocational training.
- CSS also offers citizenship classes for those wishing to acquire U.S. citizenship.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, call (704) 370-3277 or go online to [www.cssnc.org/refugee.html](http://www.cssnc.org/refugee.html).

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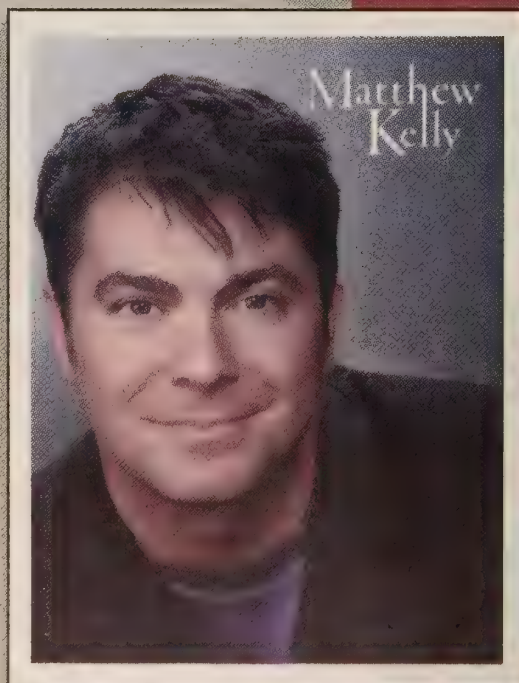
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"A Call to Joy" is your call to action. Come and fill your mind, body and spirit with the answers you need to face the challenges of everyday life. A journey of the soul awaits you.



# MISSION WORK



COURTESY PHOTO

Charlotte Catholic High School students install insulation during a spring break mission trip to Braithwaite, La., March 24-29.

## Youths build homes for Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana

MISSION, from page 1

was arranged by Global Outreach, an international mission sending agency.

Braithwaite, located about 20 minutes from New Orleans on the southeastern side of the Mississippi River, was one of the locations hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina back in 2005. Most of the homes in the area were totally destroyed.

"It was a great opportunity to educate our students on the devastation that continues to exist in the area and

how they can make a difference even if it is just one week — one house at a time," said Mary Jane Dawson, campus minister at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The students, who were accompanied by five teachers and one parent, stayed at the Living Cornerstone Church and Retreat Center.

During the days they sorted through food at a warehouse, installed insulation in two houses, put up drywall in other houses and completed demolition on a historic home. In the evenings, they gathered for prayer and group reflection.

"Leaving Braithwaite, I took away values and memories that I could have

never attained by lying on a beach over spring break," said junior Anna Berger.

"Through helping others, I helped myself realize the true meaning of being a Christian, something we all speak of but seldom act upon," she said.

In preparation for the trip, the students raised \$2,000 to pay for supplies. Rev. Rustin Treadaway, pastor of Living Cornerstone Church in Braithwaite, was so impressed with the students' work that he asked them to come back and build a youth center for the community.

"It was incredible to be a part of the energy, spirit and faith that were shared by our youths and adults," said Dawson. "They were the hands and feet of Christ that week. It was very inspiring."

The students hope to return to Braithwaite sometime in the fall to work on the youth center. In the meantime, they are working on raising funds for the project.

"Seeing a person with tears of gratitude was worth the whole trip," said Nichols. "This experience was life-changing in the fullest sense of the word."

"Seeing a person with tears of gratitude was worth the whole trip."



COURTESY PHOTO

Students help with the construction of a house in Braithwaite, La., during spring break in March.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## 'A General's Spiritual Journey'

*Book is glimpse into faith of retired Army officer known for heroism*

BY LARRY WAHL  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MOBILE, Ala. — "A General's Spiritual Journey" gives a rare glimpse into the mind, heart and soul of a battlefield warrior and faith-filled American hero, retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore.

It's a story of the courage, compassion, faith and servant leadership of a man whose heroism goes beyond the battlefield and points to the ultimate goal — eternal life — or, as Moore puts it, "the final cut."

"My principal hope is that a reader of this small booklet will derive some comfort as well as an urge and desire to become closer to God, whatever his or her religion," Moore, who is now 86, said.

A longtime resident of Auburn and a daily communicant at St. Michael Church, Moore is well known for his heroic actions in the battle of Ia Drang, the first major U.S. military confrontation in the Vietnam War.

The battle was Nov. 14-16, 1965, and was led by then-Lt. Col. Moore, of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

He and Joe Galloway, the only journalist on the ground during the battle, co-wrote the 1992 New York Times' best-selling autobiographical recollection, "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," which detailed the battle through interviews of those who fought there.

The best-seller later became an award-winning movie directed by Randall Wallace and starring Mel Gibson.

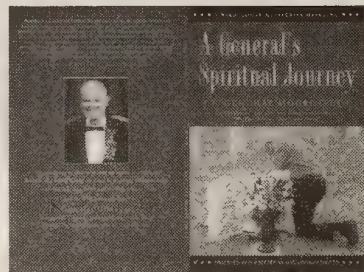
For his actions at Ia Drang, Moore was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest military decoration after the Medal of Honor.

He and his 450 men were dropped by helicopter in a clearing in the Ia Drang Valley and were immediately surrounded by 2,000 enemy soldiers.

The casualties were many, but under his command, his men's defense of their position resulted in a 4-to-1 ratio of North Vietnamese casualties to U.S. casualties.

"A General's Spiritual Journey" is finding its way into the hands of U.S. troops currently serving in battle in hostile regions or deployed overseas for other duty.

Written by his personal driver, the book is a collection of Moore's memories and reflections on the most pivotal moments of his life, covering his childhood, his foundational religious experiences, his early years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., his battlefield experiences and his devotion to his wife,



Julie, now deceased.

It has a message for anyone who has struggled with loss, conflict, guilt, forgiveness and life's ultimate questions.

Copies of the 60-page book have been sent to the troops through an effort called Operation Gratitude. The California-based, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization sends care packages to American troops.

Its founder, Carolyn Blashek, recently requested 70,000 copies of "A General's Spiritual Journey," which were donated by the publisher, Wild Goose Ministries of Vail, Colo.

"This book is less about my life than the different spiritual journeys each of us will travel — and the people we can learn from along the way," Moore said in a press release about the book.

"If just one soul is influenced through the reading of it, then it will have accomplished its deepest purpose," he said.

Still going strong, Moore travels frequently to honor a long list of engagements, his devotion to duty and personal convictions driving him to still find ways to serve his country.

He is the founder of the National Endowment for the Public Trust, dedicated to preserving and promoting core American and religious values such as servant leadership and selfless character development.

He was asked what he sees as the United States' greatest threats, challenges and hopes.

"The greatest threat I see is the growth of bad example, the growth of negative messages and influence being imparted to America's youth and to the world through the entertainment industry," he said.

"The greatest challenge is to reverse that trend and the best thing we can do is to deploy parental guidance and set the example," he said.

"(We should) ask ourselves two important questions: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? And what are we not doing that we should be doing?" he said.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 20, 2008

April 20, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 6:1-7  
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
- 2) 1 Peter 2:4-9  
Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus reveals himself in many ways, if we're willing to see him

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was 19 when my cousin came to live with my family. He was just out of the Marines. He was not doing very well and was lost in many ways.

When we were children we had been close, but it had been a few years since we had seen each other, and trying to re-establish our friendship was hard. To complicate things, my faith was becoming very important to me, and he rarely darkened the door of a church.

I took this in stride though. We had many conversations about the meaning of life, God, and faith in general.

He had a lot of opinions, but he was not ready to believe that God existed, much less believe that God loved him and wanted a relationship with him.

Try as I might, I could not get him to budge.

One night while we were lying in our bunk beds talking about life and faith, almost arguing, he finally said in an exasperated tone, "I'm not going to believe in God unless he comes down

here and shakes my hand."

I had no idea what to say to that. I simply stared at the bottom of the top mattress with my mouth open and my mind empty.

I realize now that my cousin was no different from the first disciples. They had been with Jesus for three years and still did not completely understand who he was.

At the Last Supper Philip said to Jesus: "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus responds rather incredulously, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

Twenty-five years ago, lying in that bunk bed, I felt the same way. Didn't my cousin know Jesus had already come and revealed himself?

He grew up Catholic and had heard all the same readings I had heard. What was I to say to this lack of belief?

No words came, so I did the only thing I could think of; I silently asked God to come down and shake his hand.

I wish I could say that the next day he experienced a divine handshake, but though the hand of God was continually offered to him, it would be many years before he grabbed hold.

**Questions:**

How would you have responded to the challenge, "I'm not going to believe in God unless he comes down here and shakes my hand"?

How does Jesus reveal the Father to us?

**Scripture to be Illustrated:**

"Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us" (John 14:8).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 20-26

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; Monday (St. Anselm), Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; Tuesday, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; Wednesday (St. George, St. Adalbert), Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; Thursday (St. Fidelis), Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; Friday (St. Mark), 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; Saturday, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27-MAY 3

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; Monday (St. Peter Channel, St. Louis de Montfort), Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; Tuesday (St. Catherine of Siena), Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-1; Wednesday (St. Pius V), Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday (Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; Friday (St. Athanasius), Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; Saturday (Sts. Philip and James), 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14.

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# In the spotlight

*Singers who will perform for pope consider it a singular experience*

BY BETH GRIFFIN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Performing for a papal event is not just another gig, even for those whose names are usually rendered in boldface type.

Headline entertainers who will sing for the crowds assembled to greet the pope at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx spoke of the opportunity as a singular experience and one they are eagerly anticipating.

Kelly Clarkson, 25, a pop singer who gained national attention by winning the inaugural "American Idol" competition in 2002, will sing several of her standards for the youths awaiting the pope in Yonkers April 19. When the pope arrives, she will sing "Ave Maria" by Franz Schubert.

Through her publicist, she said, "I was so excited to be asked to sing for the pope! I grew up singing church music, and it's always been a dream of mine to perform 'Ave Maria.' To have that dream come true on such a special occasion is truly a blessing."

Clarkson, who was raised Baptist, will return from a European performance tour as the pope arrives in the United States.

At Yankee Stadium April 20, guitar virtuoso Jose Feliciano will sing "Lean

on Me," "Que Sera, Sera" and "God Bless the USA."

In an interview with Catholic News Service, Feliciano's wife, Susan Feliciano, said: "This is a great gift, the opportunity of a lifetime, to be able to participate in something so special."

She said the family attends the Church of the Assumption in Westport.

Metropolitan Opera tenor Marcello Giordani will sing before and during the Mass at Yankee Stadium.

In the early afternoon, he will perform the Giacomo Puccini aria "Nessun Dorma" from the opera "Turandot." At Mass, he will sing "Panis Angelicus."

Giordani, who has sung at St. Patrick's Cathedral, was invited to sing by New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan. Giordani told CNS that he, his wife and their two children attend St. Patrick's during the months they live in New York.

"It's a great honor for me to sing for the pope. It's my first experience and I'm real excited," he said.

Asked if he might be nervous performing for Pope Benedict and 55,000 Massgoers, the tenor said, "I will close my eyes and sing."

The Irish singer Dana will also perform at the stadium. She has sung at papal events in the past, including World Youth Day in 1993, 1997 and 2002.

She also sang at the Superdome in New Orleans when Pope John Paul II visited there in 1987.

Jazz singer Harry Connick Jr. will perform two pieces he is composing for the event. Connick attended Jesuit High School in New Orleans.

Salvatore Licitra, a tenor with the Metropolitan Opera, will sing at the pope's Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19. He will perform "Domine Deus," from "Messe Petit Solennelle" by Gioachino Rossini.



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Members of the Cathedral of St. Patrick Young Singers rehearse at St. Malachy's Church in New York April 1. The 17-voice choir will sing for Pope Benedict XVI when he meets with children with disabilities at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., April 19 during his visit to the United States.

In Washington, tenor Placido Domingo and mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves will sing at the Mass at Nationals Park April 17.

Domingo, general director of the Washington National Opera, will sing "Panis Angelicus" at Communion, and Graves will sing "We Are One in the Spirit" just before the processional.

Stig Edgren is the producer for the entertainment portions of the New York events. He performed a similar role for Pope John Paul's visits to Dodger Stadium and the Los Angeles Coliseum in 1987 and Central Park in New York in 1995.

Edgren told CNS that each of the New York events will have its own flow. He said that the two-hour Yankee Stadium program will be marked by "pageantry and an orchestral, classical feel."

He said that Benoit Jutras, principal composer for Cirque Du Soleil has written a piece for the processional of the standard-bearers for Mass.

"I gave a list to Cardinal Egan and I asked Harry Connick Jr. to write opening and closing pieces" for the pre-Mass program, he said.

The musical program includes well-known entertainers in addition to choirs and orchestras assembled from

throughout the Archdiocese of New York. The choirs include the Harlem Gospel Choir and the West Point Cadet Choir, from the U.S. Military Academy.

Edgren said, "I wanted to stick with the orchestral feel and not make this a parade of stars." The four-hour program in Yonkers, he said, "will have more of a festive atmosphere" than Yankee Stadium.

He said he wanted to "keep it young" and is using alternative rock, Christian rock bands and closing the show with Clarkson. He booked Clarkson as soon as he took the assignment.

"I was looking for an artist who was a good role model, a success, with no scandals," he said.

The program will showcase more than two dozen entertainers, many of whom are drawn from the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese of New York.

Comparing the papal entertainment programs with ones he has previously produced, Edgren said, "There's a different setting, a different pope ... but it all works. I base my part of the program — the pre-Mass events — on the venue."

He added that the Mass is not his area of responsibility — and deals with an even higher authority.

## Staffers at Catholic Channel say they're excited to cover pope

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Channel of Sirius Satellite Radio may be a new kid on the block in the world of Catholic media, but it is taking a grown-up approach to covering Pope Benedict XVI's April 15-20 visit to the United States.

The channel, a joint effort of Sirius and the Archdiocese of New York, plans to provide listeners with uninterrupted live coverage of the pope's appearances at liturgies and other major events in Washington and New York.

Masses at Yankee Stadium in New York and Nationals Stadium in Washington will be broadcast live.

Sirius plans to add two channels for the trip: one that will repeat full coverage of the day's events on a looping schedule, and another that will offer historic speeches and other archival material from previous papal visits to the United States.

"Everyone is having a lot of fun getting ready," said Joe Zwilling, archdiocesan director of communications

and general manager of the Catholic Channel. "It's a new approach to covering a pope. We've never had an outlet like this, to enable us to do all these things."

Rob Astorino, station manager and program director, said: "We're well-prepared and excited. We can't wait for the trip to begin."

Astorino noted that each of the station's program hosts would be assigned to one or more of the major papal venues in either Washington or New York. When describing the tone that the Catholic Channel would seek to bring to its coverage of the visit, he used words like comprehensive, respectful and interesting.

"People will get a sense of being at an event even if they are in their car," he said.

A Catholic Channel host, Father Paul Keenan, was in Central Park in October 1995 when Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass for more than 100,000 people. For the visit of Pope Benedict, Father

Keenan will be pulling triple duty.

Along with hosting his regular nightly show, "As You Think," April 14-17, the New York archdiocesan priest will anchor the channel's broadcast of the papal Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19 and share commentator duties at the Mass in Yankee Stadium April 20 with Resurrection Sister Marie Pappas, archdiocesan superintendent of schools and another program host. Father Keenan also be doing voice work for the papal archives channel.

The trick to announcing a Mass on the radio, papal or otherwise, is knowing how to say enough but not too much, he said.

"You want people who are listening to feel that they are there," Father Keenan said. "They want to hear the Mass. You're there to help them to see the things they can't see."

The Catholic Channel, Sirius 159, is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation that began broadcasting in December 2006.

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# Msgr. William N. Pharr, 1931-2008

*Priest remembered for humble, prayerful life of service*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — To many, he was considered an inspiration, a confidant, a man of deep faith and a good friend.

By many, he will be dearly missed.

Msgr. William Neal Pharr, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died at Sharon Towers retirement community in Charlotte April 5, 2008. He was 77.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte April 10.

Msgr. Pharr was born in Charlotte Feb. 24, 1931, the son of the late William Neal Pharr and Anne McLaughlin Heath Pharr. Born into a Protestant family, Msgr. Pharr first became interested in Catholicism while a student at Belmont Abbey Prep School in the late 1940s.

His interest deepened and he became a Catholic in 1952 while a student at Davidson College. After graduation in 1953, he began studies for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in St. Bonaventure, N.Y. Then-Bishop



Msgr. William Neal Pharr

Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh ordained him a priest at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte May 26, 1960.

Then-Father Pharr spent his first year as a priest with the Missionary Fathers Apostolate as an assistant at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro. It was the beginning of a life of humble, priestly service that would affect and inspire countless people at parishes across the Diocese of Raleigh and then, after its establishment in 1972, the Diocese of Charlotte.

"St. Paul said a good man of faith is strong, loving and wise. Bill Pharr was

true to that and more," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. "He's been a wonderful companion to so many throughout our diocese on their journeys in lives of faith. I've always felt privileged to be counted among his close friends."

During his homily April 6, Father O'Rourke recalled his years of friendship with Msgr. Pharr. Like many who knew him, Father O'Rourke said Msgr. Pharr's life wasn't about "fluff."

Msgr. Pharr's lifestyle at Sharon Towers after his retirement in July 2001 reflected his long-standing approach to life and ministry. His apartment was modestly furnished. He happily remarked how he and all his neighbors were on a first-name basis — no titles, no pretenses; all were equals.

"His personal and priestly life was modeled on one of his favorite lines: 'No fluff, just the stuff,'" said Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and a friend for more than 30 years. "He had a deep sense of spirituality," said Msgr. McSweeney. "I considered him a friend, a spiritual mentor and a true confidant."

Msgr. Pharr once said a priest's relationship with Christ was top priority, and a trust in God was a vital part of priestly ministry. During a 1993 gathering of diocesan priests in Hickory, Msgr. Pharr encouraged his fellow priests to "let God be God" — to let him use them as he wished and not as they desired.

"If we do our best, he will take care of the rest. Our finite minds bow to his infinite wisdom," he said.

"He (Msgr. Pharr) was a great model of a servant who put his gifts generously at the service of all," said Father O'Rourke.

Then-Father Pharr served as an assistant pastor at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem from June 1961 until July 1962, when he became temporary administrator of St. Charles Church in Ahoskie.

From November 1963 until June 1965, he served as assistant pastor at St. Eugene Church in Asheville. He then became pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe and Sacred Heart Mission in Wadesboro.

He became pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church and Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Winston-Salem in June 1969 and pastor of St. James the Greater Church in Concord in August 1971.

Four days after the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972,

then-Bishop Michael J. Begley named him pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, where he was to remain for five years.

During that time, he served also as chaplain and director of Our Lady of the Hills Camp near Hendersonville, vicar for religious of the diocese and director of the diocesan planning council.

The late Pope Paul VI appointed him a Prelate of Honor with the title of monsignor in October 1976.

Msgr. Pharr was appointed pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro in February 1977 and, in July 1979, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and vicar forane of the Greensboro Vicariate.

Bishop Begley named him to the diocesan Seminarian Formation Committee in November 1979. Bishop John F. Donoghue, who succeeded Bishop Begley in 1984, reappointed him to the committee in March 1985.

Msgr. Pharr became pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte in July 1986 and pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte in July 1991.

After his retirement in 2001, Msgr. Pharr continued to assist in various parishes and ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte. When asked in 2003 what he looked forward to in retirement, he replied: "Traveling, listening, learning and assisting."

And in September 2004, he took on yet a new role — that of model for a poster and brochure promoting the Diocese of Charlotte's annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection.

Despite the summer heat of the outdoor photo shoot, Msgr. Pharr never lost his sense of humor and later mused about his new "modeling career."

In addition to his life of service, Msgr. Pharr wanted to continue giving to the church he loved, as he put it, long after he was "gone."

He designated the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte as a recipient of his assets.

"This is a means of saying thanks to the Lord for his gifts of the Catholic faith and my vocation to the priesthood," said Msgr. Pharr in a 2006 interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

"Through ongoing stewardship, my prayer is that many others will experience these same blessings," he said.

Memorials may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Church Building Fund, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210.

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## Director of Youth Ministry

The office of Christian Formation within the Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a full-time Director of Youth Ministry. The director brings the community together around a common vision and facilitates training and leadership formation for regional and parish ministry leaders. The director focuses on training for youth ministry, support for adolescent catechesis, providing for diocesan youth gatherings (retreats/convention), and identifying and distributing timely and strategic resources needed by youth ministry leaders. Qualifications include a Master's Degree in Theology or related field and five or more years experience in parish/diocesan youth ministry (preferably some experience at the diocesan level). Additional information is available on the Diocesan website at [www.richmonddiocese.org/human](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/human). Closing date is April 18, 2008.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to [pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org) or mail to P. Barkster, HR Administration Coordinator, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294-4201.

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IN THE NEWS

# No reversal on Vatican II teaching on Jews

PRAYER, from page 1

"The Holy See wishes to reassure that the new formulation of the prayer, which modifies certain expressions of the 1962 Missal, in no way intends to indicate a change in the Catholic Church's regard for the Jews, which has evolved from the basis of the Second Vatican Council," said an April 4 statement from the Vatican press office.

In early February, the Vatican published Pope Benedict's revision of the Good Friday prayer, which is used only in the liturgy celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal, or extraordinary form of the Mass.

The extraordinary form is no longer widely used by Catholics but may be used by some church communities under recently revised norms. The new prayer removed language referring to the "blindness" of the Jews, but it prays that Jews will recognize Jesus, the savior, and that "all Israel may be saved."

The April 4 statement said some members of the Jewish community felt the new prayer was "not in harmony with the official declarations and statements of the Holy See regarding the Jewish people and their faith which have marked the progress of friendly relations between the Jews and the Catholic Church over the last 40 years."

In particular, some Jews, as well as some Catholics, felt the prayer contained an explicit call to attempt to convert Jews to Christianity.

Cardinal Walter Kasper said that on the basis of a long history of compulsory catechesis and forced conversion, "many Jews consider a mission to the Jews as a threat to their existence."

"The Catholic Church has no organized or institutionalized mission to the Jews," said the cardinal, who is president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

That statement of fact, he said, is backed up with a theological position in the revised 1962 prayer's second line: "Almighty and everlasting God, you who want all men to be saved and to reach the awareness of the truth, graciously grant that, as the full number of the Gentiles comes into your church, all Israel may be saved."

The second line echoes the teaching of St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans that



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

A Star of David tops the facade of the Park East Synagogue in New York April 5. Pope Benedict XVI is to make a visit to the synagogue April 18.

God's promise of salvation to his chosen people has not been revoked and that once all the nations are gathered under Christ, the Jewish people will be saved, Cardinal Kasper said. "So one can say: God will bring about the salvation of Israel in the end, not on the basis of a mission to the Jews, but on the basis of the mission to the Gentiles, when the fullness of the Gentiles has entered" into Christ.

At the same time, Cardinal Kasper said, Christians do believe in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ and no one should be surprised that Christians pray for the salvation of all people and that "tactfully and respectfully" they give witness to their faith in Jesus.

The Vatican's April 4 statement did not mention missionary activity or attempts to convert Jews.

Rabbi David Rosen, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, told Catholic News Service April 4 that the Vatican statement was "an important clarification."

"I think it contains a very important implicit statement — which I would have been happier to see made explicit — that if one accepts (the Vatican II document) 'Nostra Aetate,' then they must demonstrate esteem for Judaism, which precludes proselytism," he said.

The rabbi said the April 4 statement does not contain all of the elements he had been told in early March would be included in a clarification from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

A Vatican official said that by releasing the statement from the Vatican Secretariat of State it made clear the fact that it reflects the official position of the Vatican and not simply the position of an individual cardinal.

# Addition of two U.S. meetings shows pope's concern for Jews

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's addition of two meetings with Jews in the United States underlined the pope's continuing interest in improving Catholic-Jewish relations.

It's a relationship that is extremely important to the German pope, but which has had its ups and downs since he was elected three years ago.

The pope has pleased many Jewish leaders by emphasizing that Jews have a special place in salvation history.

He has visited a synagogue and the Auschwitz death camp, suspended the sainthood cause of a priest suspected of anti-Semitism and expressed full support for the new relationship with Judaism launched by the Second Vatican Council.

But the comments he made at Auschwitz in 2006 prompted some Jewish representatives to ask why he didn't explore the roots of anti-Semitism and the responsibility of Christians — including those in his native country.

Perhaps the most sensitive issue is the question of conversion, and it has come to the fore in recent weeks.

After the pope relaxed restrictions on the extraordinary form of the Mass in 2007, Jews objected to the restoration of the old Roman Missal's Good Friday prayer for the conversion of Jews, which spoke of the Jews' "blindness."

In February, the pope took the unusual step of personally rewriting the prayer. But although he removed the offensive language, the revised text's reference to the salvation of the Jews left many fearing it called for their conversion.

The prayer, which is only used by a small number of Catholic communities, now begins: "Let us pray for the Jews. May the Lord our God enlighten their hearts so that they may acknowledge Jesus Christ, the savior of all men."

Cardinal Walter Kasper, who coordinates Catholic dialogue with the Jews, emphasized that the prayer is eschatological in nature, referring to the end of time, and is not a call for a missionary effort among the Jews.

But Jewish leaders continued to press for clarification of the new text.

In response, the Vatican published a statement April 4 saying the newly formulated prayer "in no way intends to indicate a change in the Catholic Church's regard for the Jews." The Vatican underlined the bonds of "esteem, dialogue, love, solidarity and collaboration between Catholics and Jews."

The Vatican's explanation, it is hoped, will help ensure the success of the two U.S. meetings, a brief encounter with Jews in Washington and a visit to the Park East Synagogue in New York.

## Advancing efforts, dialogue

From the moment of Pope Benedict's election, some wondered how the Jewish community would react to a German pope who had been forced to enroll in the Hitler Youth during the Nazi era.

In fact, many Jewish leaders praised the new pope as a thoughtful dialogue partner and rejected the idea that he was in any way a sympathizer with Nazism.

Rabbi Israel Singer, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, met with Pope Benedict in 2005 and called him "an old friend in new white robes," the man who "gave the theological underpinnings to the gestures of Pope John Paul."

What many Jewish leaders appreciated was the pope's clear teaching that Christianity has a special relationship with Judaism.

As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he said several years ago: "It is evident that we come from the roots of Israel and that their Bible is our Bible and that Judaism is not just one of many religions but is the foundation, the root of our faith."

In one of his first acts as pontiff, Pope Benedict sent a message to Rome's chief rabbi expressing his intent to advance dialogue with the Jewish community.

Later in 2005, marking the 40th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the Vatican II declaration on relations with non-Christians, the pope cited the shared spiritual roots of Catholics and Jews and called for a common witness on issues of life, human dignity, the family and peace.

The pope showed sensitivity to Jewish concerns the same year when he effectively suspended the beatification cause of Father Leon Dehon, founder of the Sacred Heart of Jesus religious order, and formed a commission of church experts to study the priest's writings for alleged anti-Semitism.

On a sainthood cause with even greater potential impact, Pope Benedict late last year established a commission to study archival material about the papacy of Pope Pius XII and examine how his possible beatification would affect Catholic-Jewish relations.

The move was not an abandonment of the sainthood cause, but it signaled that the pope would be looking very carefully at its wider consequences, including interreligious and diplomatic aspects.

On his very first foreign trip in 2005, Pope Benedict visited a synagogue in Cologne, Germany, that had been destroyed in a 1938 Kristallnacht pogrom and rebuilt after the war. In a moving encounter, he recalled the Nazi persecution of the Jews as "the darkest period of German and European history."

A year later, however, when he visited Auschwitz in Poland, some Jewish leaders criticized the pope for not focusing enough on the Nazis' Jewish victims and for not explicitly condemning anti-Semitism.

The pope responded a few days later, telling a general audience in Rome that humanity must not give in to "the temptation of racial hatred, which is the origin of the worst forms of anti-Semitism."

One of the pope's most intriguing "encounters" with Judaism came in his 2007 book, "Jesus of Nazareth." The most quoted author in the pope's book was Rabbi Jacob Neusner, a U.S. professor of religion and theology.

Responding to Rabbi Neusner's own book, "A Rabbi Talks With Jesus," the pope praised him for taking the Gospel of Jesus seriously and for correctly grasping Jesus' own understanding of his mission as the Son of God — even though, in the end, the rabbi could not accept Christ as savior.

## Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Macon, Georgia

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young adults ministries to coordinate ministries to middle school, high school and young adults including campus ministry. St. Joseph Catholic Church [www.stjoseph.com](http://www.stjoseph.com) is a downtown parish of 2000 families. Applicant should have prior experience in youth and young adult ministries; certification in youth ministry preferable. Position available August 1, 2008. Please send resume to Father Allan J. McDonald, pastor, 830 Poplar Street, Macon, GA 31201 or email [frajm@st-joseph.cc](mailto:frajm@st-joseph.cc)



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Today's sins may look different

*Christians must be formed to counter society that ignores God*

I have to admit that, like most young adult Catholics I know, it has been some time since I pulled out my copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and reviewed what exactly is a mortal sin.

So while most media outlets have mocked the Vatican's statement on new social sins — such as polluting the environment, drug trafficking, and genetic manipulation and other experiments conducted within the “greatest danger zone” of bioethics — I actually appreciated the reminder of what sin looks like today because not every young adult can make the cognitive jump between yesterday's sins and modern immorality.

For example, not until I read an incisive article by Christian author Kathleen Norris did I understand the grave sin known as sloth to be anything other than laziness. In her “Christian Century” piece, Norris writes: “Sloth is so much more than laziness. It is an inability to concentrate on serious matters, and profound weariness of soul.”

As Evelyn Waugh once wrote, “The malice of sloth lies not merely in the neglect of duty (though that can be a symptom of it) but in the refusal of joy. It is allied to despair.”

Yikes. Really?

My soul is weary a lot, and these reflections made me think, which was exactly the intention of Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, when he described to the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano how globalization impacts morality.

“You offend God not only by stealing, blaspheming or coveting your neighbor's wife, but also by ruining the environment, carrying out morally debatable scientific experiments or allowing genetic manipulations which alter DNA or compromise embryos,” he said in the interview.

Granted, most major newspapers and television networks have a ball with this kind of stuff, implying, “Those Catholics, they are so old-fashioned.”

But the whole point of the Vatican's statement was to communicate that sin isn't old-fashioned. It is very real and organic in the decisions we make on a daily basis.

My friend, Father James Martin, associate editor at America magazine, said this during a National Public Radio interview: “I think [Bishop Girotti] is reminding people that sins are not just individual ... that there are also social sins

### Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD  
CNS COLUMNIST



— sins that affect the community at large and sins that an institution can engage in.”

Perhaps Bishop Girotti was merely articulating the same message that Pope John Paul II wrote in his 1979 apostolic exhortation, “On Catechesis in Our Time”:

“Fashion changes, but a profound reality remains. Christians today must be formed to live in a world which largely ignores God or which, in religious matters, in place of an exacting and fraternal dialogue, stimulating for all, too often founders in a debasing indifference, if it does not remain in a scornful attitude of ‘suspicion’ in the name of the progress it has made in the field of scientific ‘explanations.’

“To ‘hold on’ in this world, to offer to all a ‘dialogue of salvation’ in which each person feels respected in his or her most basic dignity, the dignity of one who is seeking God, we need a catechesis which trains the young people and adults of our communities to remain clear and consistent in their faith, to affirm serenely their Christian and Catholic identity, to ‘see him who is invisible’ and to adhere so firmly to the absoluteness of God that they can be witnesses to him in a materialistic civilization that denies him.”

## Don't deny guns to all citizens

In response to Moses Sandoval's March 14 column (“Sacrifices to the gun, our leading idol”), it is true that almost anyone can become a criminal capable of murder. However, to take away the rights of all law-abiding citizens to own guns is wrong.

Do all citizens deserve to lose the right to operate motor vehicles because of drunk drivers? Should we do away with knives and pointed sticks?

Perhaps if Mr. Sandoval's cousin had

## The season after Easter: A magnificent eucatastrophe!

*Christ's sacrifice ends with joy, if we open ourselves to it*

J.R.R. Tolkien was a famous British writer whom most know for “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy recently popularized in film. But he also was a prominent Christian thinker and close acquaintance of C.S. Lewis.

Tolkien coined the word “eucatastrophe,” which can help us — if we reflect upon it — to keep the spirit of Easter alive beyond the Sunday of overflowing church pews and new spring outfits.

A eucatastrophe, said Tolkien, is “the joy in a sudden glimpse of the underlying reality or truth.”

Quite simply, a good ending not expected.

Surely to the frightened apostles on Good Friday this was the meaning of the resurrection, and likewise for us the “good ending unexpected” of Easter ought not be shut away as one might save a basket for next year.

To know the joy of the resurrection, we must hold fast to the significance of Christ's death beyond the weeks we recite the Stations of the Cross.

Christ's death is not mere historical fact — the tale of a heroically good man standing up to the injustices of the world and being crushed for his trouble. This is a compelling and instructive story line, but it is also an incomplete accounting of the faith.

To say that Jesus died because those in power ordered him killed does not reveal the great truth of his death. We come closer when we say that Jesus died for our sins and in fulfillment of God's plan of salvation.

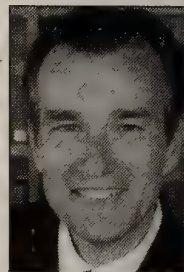
But even this falls short, either because it is too glib or because it leaves us baffled how any father, let alone our Father, would give a son over to the profound suffering of the crucifixion.

What's more, our own mind revolts at the notion of an innocent man being punished for the transgressions of others.

C.S. Lewis reminds us in “Mere Christianity” that Jesus was not being punished in a retributive sense but in

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



the sense of generously paying a debt or footing a bill — our bill — the debt we incur each time we assert that we belong to ourselves.

This rebellion of spirit of course began with Adam and Eve, but it continues for each of us in every act of selfishness or self will. Our self-conceit is all the worse because it is made in the face of the infinite abundance of God's gift of life and creation to which we have no entitlement.

All humanity was greatly “in the hole,” as Lewis would say, with no way out. The debt that Jesus assumed for us was frankly beyond our capacities to fulfill. And if we think about it, were it not for the Incarnation, beyond God's.

It was not in God's divine nature to spurn, as we spurned, unmerited gifts of love. He could do it only by assuming our nature and then by dying unto it. Only then would the debt be paid.

So in these days after Easter, let us not understate the significance of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

Most of all, let us not run up a new debt by putting undo emphasis upon the next success in material things, by constantly demanding to be entertained rather than accepting the day and the opportunities to do good that it brings.

The Easter season continues. It does not end on Easter Sunday. It is a eucatastrophe!

The resurrection is the eucatastrophe of the story of the incarnation, a story in Christ Jesus that, as Tolkien observed, begins and ends with joy — if we open ourselves to it.

### Letters to the Editor

a gun behind the counter, he could have protected himself and the other person.

If you don't want to protect yourself, fine. If you want to leave it to someone else to protect you, fine. But if only criminals have guns, we all have to be afraid.

— Joseph Gaitan Hayesville

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy. Items submitted become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.



# Hope and healing after abortion

*Resources available to help overcome post-abortion symptoms*

The freedom to make choices means we bear the consequences of our decisions. For many people, the decision to choose abortion as the answer to an unplanned pregnancy carries with it pain and regret.

While each person's story is unique, there are many similarities common to those who have decided to terminate their pregnancies. Many felt overwhelmed with the reality of raising a child. And the strain of limited finances, the abandonment of parents or the baby's father, or the challenges of completing school are some of the common struggles impacting the choice to end a pregnancy.

But what may have seemed like a solution turns into deep feelings of guilt, shame and isolation. Many women later deal with symptoms of depression, eating disorders and drug and alcohol abuse. Many experience painful flashbacks of the abortions; many go on to have multiple abortions.

Additionally, post-abortive men and women report having difficulty dealing with relationships and feel disconnected

from God, feeling they have committed an unforgivable sin.

In his 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), Pope John Paul II eloquently addresses the pain these men and women may be experiencing and he calls them to accept God's grace:

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision.

"The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give into discouragement and do not lose hope. Try, rather, to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not done so, give yourself over with humility and trust to repentance.

"The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost, and you will also be

## Guest Column

MAGGI NADOL  
GUEST COLUMNIST



able to ask forgiveness from your child who is now living in the Lord.

"With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life."

If you are struggling with an abortion in your past, or know of someone who is, there is hope and forgiveness with resources available to help begin the healing journey. As our Holy Father said: "Do not give into discouragement and do not lose hope."

The Diocese of Charlotte has resources available to help, from counseling to weekend healing retreats. For more information, contact the diocesan Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229 or go online to [www.cssnc.org/respectlife.html](http://www.cssnc.org/respectlife.html).

*Maggi Nadol is program director of the diocesan Respect Life Office.*

# Pope: Europe must undergo ethical renewal to avoid repeating mistakes

## The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The future of Europe cannot rest solely on political and economic unity; the continent must also undergo an ethical and spiritual renewal if it is to avoid repeating its past mistakes, Pope Benedict XVI said.

A crucial source for that renewal can be found in St. Benedict, the patron saint of Europe, who is still the best teacher to show people "the art of living true humanism," he said.

The pope spoke about St. Benedict, the fifth-century father of Western monasticism and "patron saint of my pontificate," during his April 9 general audience in St. Peter's Square.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

# A question about the frequency of confession

*Q. In a recent column you discussed a question from a lady concerned about confession without mortal sin. She was told that since she had no mortal sins to confess she was wasting the priest's time.*

*After that, she had been to confession only a few times over many years, and wondered about going to Communion. In your response you wrote, "Nothing in anything you said is a reason to forego receiving Communion."*

*Am I wrong that one of the commandments of the church is that we receive the sacrament of penance at least once a year, whether or not we are guilty of serious sin?*

*We learned it is sinful to receive the Eucharist if we had not confessed within the prior year. Don't the "six precepts of the church," including yearly confession, exist any more? (Ohio)*

A. In the year 1215, the Fourth Lateran Council decreed that all Catholics should confess any serious sins once a year. In spite of the rather different wording you remember, which I too learned in school in the 1930s, that has been the law of the church during the past 800 years.

The old Baltimore Catechism No. 3 (St. Joseph Edition, Question 293), which for decades defined authoritative

beliefs and practice for American Catholics, says the obligation for annual confession binds "if we have a mortal sin to confess."

The present Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1457) and current canon law (No. 989) say the same.

It bears repeating again that the church does not recommend receiving this sacrament only once a year or only when one is conscious of a serious sin. It is simply the bare minimum required.

As I indicated in the column to which you refer, most Catholics who wish to benefit spiritually from this sacrament would receive it more than once a year, mortal sin or not.

As for the precepts of the church, current canon law describes the obligations and rights in general for all Catholics, and specifically for the laity, largely in canons 206-231.

These regulations reflect what Catholic faith teaches about our common responsibility to cooperate in building and sanctifying the body of Christ. They can be briefly summarized as follows.

1. To lead a full sacramental life, especially to participate in the Mass on Sundays and holy days, share in holy Communion, and receive the sacrament of penance regularly, at appropriate times.

## Question Corner

FATHER JAMES  
DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



2. To provide proper religious education for oneself and one's children, especially by use of Catholic schools and other education programs.

3. To observe the marriage laws of the church.

4. To strengthen and support the church, one's own parish community and clergy, and the worldwide church.

5. To practice penance and self-denial in the spirit of Christ, including fast and abstinence on days appointed by church leaders.

6. To share in the missionary spirit and apostolic work of the local and universal church.

It is just coincidence that this group numbers six. But they cover essentially what the "precepts of the church" have been and are today.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of reconciliation is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our catechesis today is concerned with St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism.

The most important source of information on his life is the Second Book of the Dialogues of Pope St. Gregory the Great. Writing in a time of turmoil and moral decadence following the fall of the Roman Empire, Pope Gregory believed that the life and Rule of Benedict could be a light leading the people of Europe out of darkness.

Benedict was born in 480 in the region of Nursia. He came to Rome to study but soon left the city so as to live in silence and to please God alone. He spent some time in a religious community before becoming a hermit in a cave.

After struggling victoriously against the fundamental human temptations of pride, sensuality and anger, he decided to found a monastery at Subiaco. Years later he established a new community on a mountain, Montecassino, to symbolize the public role of a monastery called to be a light shining for the good of the church and society.

Indeed, when he died in 547, St. Benedict left behind a thriving spiritual family and a rule, which invites us to search for God in prayer, obedience and humility while attending faithfully to daily duties and to those in need.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI proclaimed St. Benedict patron of Europe, recognizing the role that his teaching and his disciples had played in shaping Europe's spiritual life and culture.

Let us continue to pray that Europe's new unity may be enlightened and nourished by a religious and moral renewal drawn from its Christian roots.





CNS PHOTO BY DAVID OMWONO, CARITAS

A staff member treats a child at the Caritas Somalia Health Dispensary in Baidoa, Somalia, in February. The clinic receives support from the Vatican and Catholic Relief Services.

## Caritas health center provides needed care in Muslim Somalia

# Cooperating in the name of God

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**BAIDOA, Somalia** — Before dawn each morning, large crowds line up outside the gates of the Caritas Somalia Health Dispensary in this southern town, which has been hit hard by drought, a recent cholera outbreak and nearly 20 years of violence between rival clans and armed factions.

To be first in line for treatment, people sleep outside the gates of this outpatient facility that provides free health care. Sometimes the line is so long that not all patients can be seen.

Hawo Adan, a 28-year-old mother of four, came to the center knowing that her child with leishmaniasis would be treated and fed. Leishmaniasis, also known as black fever, is an often-fatal disease transmitted by sand-fly bites.

"A serious drought ravaged our land, so there is no food at home. But I knew at this clinic, even if my child's treatment lasts a month, I will be given food for all that period," Adan said.

Another patient, Ibrahim Mohammed, walked more than 20 miles to the center.

Through the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Vatican agency that promotes and coordinates Catholic charitable giving, Pope Benedict XVI donated to this medical center the 2007 collection from his Holy Thursday Mass in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

The center is run by Caritas Somalia, the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations working in more than 200 countries and territories.

More than a year after the papal donation, the Baidoa center has increased its service to almost 170 patients a day.

Davide Bernocchi, director of Caritas Somalia, said the center's work shows that it is possible to meet Somalis' basic needs with limited resources.

Many of its patients have traveled long distances from their villages, while others live in camps set up for those who have fled the conflict in Mogadishu, the nation's capital. It is not unusual for people to travel 60 miles to receive care.

For the past year, Ethiopian-backed Somali forces have fought Islamist insurgents in Mogadishu almost daily. The fighting has killed hundreds of civilians and forced tens of thousands to flee.

The center works on a first-come, first-served basis, but anybody is served regardless of clan or social status.

With support from nongovernmental organizations, including the U.S. bishops' international aid agency Catholic Relief Services, the Baidoa center offers specialized treatment to many people, said Abdullahi Bernocchi, the center's medical coordinator.

Many people said it would be impossible for a Catholic organization to work in this violent environment, where people were unused to interacting with outsiders and where any non-Muslim religious presence was likely to be regarded with suspicion.

"We needed to give the local people some hope that the ongoing national reconciliation process would eventually result in concrete positive outcomes in their daily life," Bernocchi said.

Maalin Nuno Abdulrahman, the imam at a mosque next to the Caritas center, said, "I don't know what life would have been without Caritas. ... The respect we have for this service can be seen by the distance people travel to come for medical care."

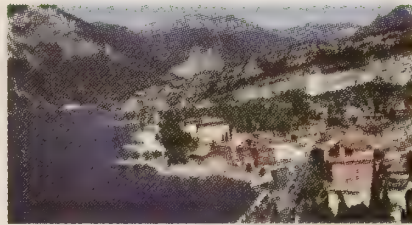
Shihab Babiker, Islamic Relief's Somalia director, said the cooperation between his agency and Caritas Somalia is noteworthy.

"When Christian and Muslim agencies cooperate in the name of God, it is placing the dignity of the human person before other differences," he said.

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Your 11-day excursion with full-time escort includes these highlights:

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

\*per person with double occupancy

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

## Help and healing after an abortion

[www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)



**CSS**

**Catholic Social Services  
Respect Life Office  
704-370-3229**





Established Jan. 12, 1972  
by Pope Paul VI

APRIL 18, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

## Perspectives

Children on the battlefield;  
generosity and renunciation

| PAGES 14-15

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## Pure style



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

***Model Meredith Walsh strides down the runway at the first annual Pure Fashion Show in Charlotte, April 13. Pure Fashion is a faith-based program that strives to teach teen girls about the importance of dignity and living a life in accordance with God's will.***

**FOR FULL STORY SEE  
PAGE 5.**

# Pope brings hope



CNS PHOTO BY JASON REED

Pope Benedict XVI acknowledges the crowd as he walks with U.S. President George W. Bush upon arriving at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington April 15.

Pope Benedict greeted  
by Bush as he begins  
first U.S. visit

By CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (CNS) — Welcomed by U.S. President George W. Bush and an array of church officials, Pope Benedict XVI began his first pastoral visit to the United States as pope April 15.

The papal plane landed under an almost cloudless sky at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland at 3:51 p.m. EDT, nearly 10 minutes ahead of schedule. The pope was to spend the next two days in Washington before traveling to New York April 18.

Among those greeting the pope were Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl

See POPE, page 13

## Judge for the diocese leads tribunal workshop

## Advocates get refresher course in canon law

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

**CHARLOTTE** — Advocates for the tribunal of the Diocese of Charlotte attended workshops at three locations in North Carolina April 15-19. The workshops, which were held at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, St. Eugene Church

in Asheville and St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, are part of a continuing education program for volunteer advocates sponsored by the diocesan tribunal.

The tribunal, or church court, handles the marriage

See TRIBUNAL, page 4



COURTESY PHOTO

Phuong Wright with Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte works with Omar Yussuf, a refugee from Eritrea, Feb. 18. CSS Awareness Week takes place April 19-27.

# CSS

## Awareness

### Week 2008

Helping people  
across the diocese  
and beyond

**SEE COVERAGE ON  
PAGES 7-10**

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## Statistically Speaking

### Survey assesses Catholics' beliefs

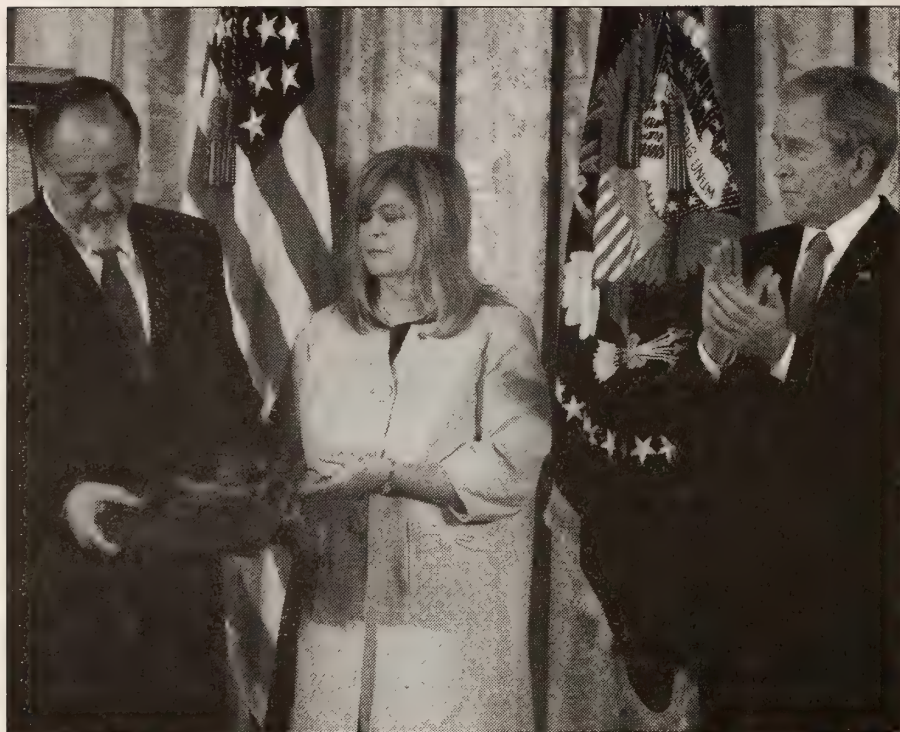
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## HONORING A COURAGEOUS CATHOLIC



CNS BY BRIAN AHO, COURTESY OF U.S. NAVY VIA REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush applauds after presenting a posthumous Medal of Honor for Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Monsoor to his parents, George and Sally Monsoor, at the White House in Washington April 8. The Catholic Navy SEAL died Sept. 29, 2006, after diving onto a grenade during an attack on his combat team in Ramadi, Iraq.

## Bush presents posthumous Medal of Honor to Catholic Navy SEAL

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A tearful U.S. President George W. Bush presented the parents of Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Monsoor with a posthumous Medal of Honor for saving the lives of two Navy SEAL teammates by sacrificing his own in Ramadi, Iraq.

Monsoor was 25 when a hand grenade tossed by Iraqi insurgents hit his chest and landed on the ground in front of him. Monsoor immediately threw himself on the grenade, smothering its blow. He died less than 30 minutes later.

At the April 8 ceremony at the White House, Bush said this highest military medal was "awarded for an act of such courage that no one could rightly be expected to undertake it. Yet those who knew Michael Monsoor were not surprised when he did."

Father Paul Halladay, former chaplain of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, was at the ceremony and knew Monsoor when he was a chaplain stationed in Ramadi.

Though the circumstances in which Monsoor died were a very outward sign of his heroism, Father Halladay described Monsoor as being "very soft-spoken, low-key, unassuming."

He was not unlike others his age, Father Halladay told Catholic News Service April 7, noting that like the saying "still waters run deep," Monsoor "was a man with a depth of courage and spirituality."

Father Halladay, a priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Ala., currently

stationed with the 58th Transportation Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., told CNS he knew Monsoor "was well loved by his team" and said Monsoor had a "quick smile."

The first time Monsoor met Father Halladay, he asked the priest to hear his confession. Father Halladay said that, to him, this was a sign that Monsoor was concerned with and cared about his spiritual life.

"I do know that (his faith) was important to him, while that didn't keep him from being a normal 25-year-old man," he said. But his faith "just made him the best 25-year-old man he could be," added the priest.

Father Halladay said Monsoor's faith life allowed him to instinctively save the lives of his teammates.

"So when it came down to laying down his life for his friends, his faith life allowed him to be able to do that without a moment's hesitation," he said.

Father Halladay, who was with Monsoor before he was officially pronounced dead, noted that Monsoor died Sept. 29, 2006, the feast of St. Michael and two other archangels.

Monsoor received the Silver Star Medal posthumously for his heroic actions in May 2006 when he pulled a wounded teammate to safety while under enemy fire. He also was honored with the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Monsoor became the third Medal of Honor recipient from the Iraq War.

## Syrian, Jordanian diplomats urge U.S. to share Iraqi refugee burden

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The ambassadors of Syria and Jordan called on the United States to share the burden of the unprecedented Iraqi refugee crisis.

"The situation is terrible and the burden" on Syria's resources and population is horrendous, said Imad Moustapha, Syrian ambassador to the U.S.

Moustapha was a participant on one of several panels at an April 4 forum in Washington. The forum, sponsored by Villanova University School of Law in Pennsylvania, gathered advocates, aid workers and lawyers involved with Iraqi refugees.

Moustapha stressed the economic and security problems that 1.5 million Iraqi refugees in Syria have caused the already strained government, which subsidizes social programs such as health care and education for Syrians.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., said the "volume of people in such a short space of time (in Jordan) is staggering to the mind."

Najla Chadha, director of the Catholic-run Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center, said the Lebanese "are starting to get jealous" of the 50,000 Iraqi refugees in Lebanon because of the support they receive.

Chadha said there is a problem with overlap in services provided by nongovernmental organizations. In an effort to garner funding from donor countries, many organizations say they are working with Iraqi refugees, she said, adding there is a lack of coordination on the part of donors and service providers.

Several other aid workers discussed the unique problems faced by Iraqi refugees, many of whom are illegally residing in their host countries.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An *Ignatian retreat for women* will be held at St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St. in Charlotte, on Saturday, May 3rd. Consider setting aside some time for quiet reflection and prayer. The theme for this retreat is "To Touch His Cloak" with reflections on hope and healing. There is no charge for the retreat. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.; the retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, sign up online at [retreat4women@gmail.com](mailto:retreat4women@gmail.com), or call the church at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The semi-annual *rosary rally* will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The rally will include the holy rosary, a Eucharistic procession and Benediction. Join us as we honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — PROSHRED Security will host a free *community shred* at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. About seven million Americans become victims of identity theft each year. One precaution you can take to protect yourself is to shred personal documents you no longer need. Documents will be destroyed while you watch. All shredded materials will be recycled. For further details, call the church at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — *Ultreya* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sunday April 20, from 12 - 2 p.m. in

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or [jnell@dnnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Cardinal: Papal events with Bush don't signal approval of policies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming visit to the White House to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush does not signal Vatican support of the Bush administration's foreign policies, a Vatican official said.

The April 15-16 encounters with the president when the pope arrives in the U.S. should "absolutely not" be seen as support of Bush's stance on Iraq, said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The cardinal spoke to reporters April 11 during a break in an international conference on disarmament sponsored by the Vatican council.

"The pope and the Holy See cannot renounce with one visit all the Holy See's positions of rejecting war, always encouraging dialogue to smooth over disagreements and fostering cooperation," he said.

He said the argument that U.S.-led troops have to remain in Iraq in order to bring security and protect the Christian minority is open to question.

But whether it is wise to keep troops in Iraq is "a very difficult judgment" to make because some analysts say "the daily slaughter that unfolds in Iraq" is rooted in the continued presence of foreign troops, said the Italian cardinal.

Cardinal Martino, who served as the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations, 1986-2002, said he and others at the U.N. "did everything" to prevent what they saw as unjust attacks against Iraq in 1991.

However, Vatican lobbying and repeated papal appeals against the 2003 war against Iraq failed, he said.

The pope's role is much like the priest urging his flock "to follow the Ten Commandments. It's then up to us to follow them or not," he said.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

**SALISBURY** — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

**MURPHY** — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

**CLEMMONS** — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *Eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Dignity of the Human Person*" April 20, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Pope urges world to slash military spending, funnel savings for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged nations to slash military spending and funnel savings into peaceful development projects around the world.

He also called on nations to halt the spread of handguns and other small-caliber weapons "that fuel local wars and urban violence and unfortunately kill too many people across the world every day."

The pope made his comments in a written message presented to participants gathered for an April 11-12 seminar sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The Vatican released a copy of the papal message April 12.

The international seminar, which brought together dozens of experts and representatives from the church, governmental agencies and grassroots groups, was titled "Disarmament, Development and Peace: Perspectives for an Integral Disarmament."

In his written message, the pope praised the gathering, saying the topic was "timely" and "urgent."

In order to avoid repeating "the

horrors of the Second World War," leaders created the United Nations, but "today the international community seems like (it is) missing," he said.

Tension and warfare rage in some parts of the world, while in places where people are spared such conflict "the feelings of fear and insecurity are widespread," Pope Benedict said.

Global terrorism also has blurred the lines between the state of peace or war and is "seriously jeopardizing the future hope of humanity," he said.

While peaceful economic development and political and juridical guidelines are needed to help reduce conflict and weapons proliferation, the pope said it is "ever more urgent to foster a new humanism that enlightens humanity's self-understanding and the meaning of its place in history."

Arms reduction and authentic peace can only come about after violence has been eliminated from its roots, that is, in people's hearts, he said. People need to "decisively point themselves toward the quest for peace, the good, and the just" and become peace workers, he wrote.

## Papal Mass Tickets Get Stuffed



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Diana M. Padilla, right, and Alexandra Bastien of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., stuff tickets to Pope Benedict XVI's Yankee Stadium Mass into envelopes April 10. More than 11,000 requests were received by the diocese and 1,000 tickets were distributed to lottery winners for the April 20 Mass.

## Pope names Slovakian cardinal as envoy to eucharistic congress

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Slovakian Cardinal Josef Tomko to be his representative at the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City.

The 84-year-old cardinal was president of the Vatican's office for organizing the international event from 2001 to 2007. Previously he served for 16 years as prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The June 15-22 International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec coincides with the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.

Church and government officials had invited Pope Benedict to preside over the congress, and Canadian Catholics even launched an Internet petition urging him to attend.

The Vatican announced April 12 that the pope had appointed Cardinal Tomko to be his representative at the gathering, which will include speeches and workshops on different themes related to the Eucharist, opportunities for eucharistic adoration and Masses.

The theme of the congress is "The Eucharist, Gift of God for the Life of the World."

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**April 22 (6 p.m.)**  
Friends of Seminarians Dinner  
Grandover Resort, Greensboro

**April 23 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

**April 24 (6 p.m.)**  
Mass for Diocesan School Board and Principals  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**April 25 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville



# Workshop better equips advocates for handling marriage nullity cases

TRIBUNAL, from page 1

nullity process, working under a set of procedures and laws established as part of canon law, the universal law of the church.

"An advocate is a bridge between the petitioner and the church in a unique way," said Joy Barnes, tribunal advocate for the Diocese of Charlotte.

An advocate is someone who helps those seeking annulments to develop their cases.

Priests and deacons of the diocese, who serve as case sponsors and provide pastoral support to parishioners going through the process, also attended.

"These workshops are focused on giving them (advocates) both the theory behind the various grounds that are available for hearing marriage cases, as well as some practical experience in looking at cases," said Dominican Father W. Becket Soule.

Father Soule, who presided over the workshops, is a judge for the Diocese of Charlotte and currently the pastor of St. Denis Church in Hanover, N.H.

A licentiate, or graduate degree beyond the master's level, in canon law is required to serve as judge. A graduate of Davidson College, Father Soule holds a licentiate and a doctorate in canon law from the Catholic University of America. He was appointed a judge for the Diocese of Charlotte by Bishop Peter J. Jugis four years ago.

"Since all procedures in a canonical process have to be in writing, actually being in the office every day is less crucial than it is in a secular trial," said Father Soule. "Given the current shortage of trained personnel, I am happy to be able to assist the Diocese of Charlotte in any way I can."

The goal of the workshop was to better equate advocates with grounds

of nullity and go over basic annulment procedures, according to Lisa Sarvis, head of the diocesan tribunal.

"Frequently the judge is unavailable to answer questions," said Father Soule. "The advocate, therefore, is both a means to keep the parties informed as well as a mean to keep the tribunal aware of their needs and concerns."

There are 50 volunteer advocates located throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. At least one advocate is assigned to every parish and mission to assist its parishioners.

The purpose of a nullity process is to determine whether or not an indissoluble marriage bond was created when the parties entered their marriage. It must be proved clearly and without doubt that this enduring bond was not established in order to declare the marriage null.

This proof must focus on grounds of nullity recognized by church law and must apply to the marriage from its very beginning. Grounds are the provisions in the law of the church, identifying the circumstances under which a marriage may be invalid.

The tribunal receives around 300 new requests for annulments each year.

"Unfortunately divorce is a fact of life but a civil divorce has no standing in the church, just as decisions rendered in canon law have no civil effect," said Sarvis.

During a Jan. 26 meeting with members of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota, a Vatican court that deals mainly with appeals in marriage annulment cases, Pope Benedict XVI said local tribunals play an indispensable role in making justice accessible to Catholics and in "investigating and resolving cases in their concreteness, which is sometimes tied to the culture and mentality" of the local population.

However, he said, "all the sentences must always be founded on common principles and norms of justice."

When handling the nullity process,

the tribunal works under a set of procedures and laws set forth by the Code of Canon Law.

The Code of Canon Law is seldom revised; however, new interpretations and applications continue to develop as cases are heard and resolved throughout the universal church. Thus, the tribunal offers continuing education to the advocates to help them keep up with the latest developments.

"When consent to marriage is invalid, for whatever reason, it is the responsibility of the church to bring that fact to light and free the parties to move on with their lives and their faith journeys," according to the diocesan

advocate handbook. "That is the mission of this ministry and the hope and prayer of all involved."

"Advocacy is a healing ministry," said Barnes. "Often our petitioners have become separated from the sacraments by divorce and remarriage. An annulment draws them back to the Eucharist and full participation in their faith communities."

## WANT MORE INFO:

For more information on the advocate program in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Joy Barnes at (704) 370-3343 or [jmbarnes@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmbarnes@charlottediocese.org).

## The Annulment Process:

1. The first step for a petitioner considering a marriage case is to approach the local parish priest or pastoral assistant, who will assist the petitioner in completing a preliminary questionnaire for submission to the diocesan tribunal. This questionnaire provides the tribunal staff an overview of the marriage.
2. The tribunal next contacts the other party to the marriage – the respondent – who has a right to be heard. A questionnaire is sent to the respondent to request information regarding the alleged grounds of nullity.
3. The petitioner is expected to inform witnesses that they will be contacted by the tribunal, and request their prompt cooperation. Each witness is sent a questionnaire based on the grounds in the case and a cover letter explaining how to proceed. The testimony is to be given under oath, and witnesses have the option of signing the completed questionnaire before a Catholic priest or pastoral minister or before a notary public.
4. A favorable decision in the diocesan tribunal must be reviewed by the Court of Appeals of the Province of Atlanta, Ga.
5. Upon completion, the petitioner is notified and sent a copy of the final decree.

## More about Father Soule:

- Served as a judge for the Archdiocese of Washington for 10 years and adjutant judicial vicar for the archdiocese 1999-2002
- Taught at the Dominican House of Studies, Catholic University and Oxford University
- Served as associate professor of canon law and dean of the pontifical faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. 2003-2007

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## FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Young girls gather around the runway to get a closer look as Pure Fashion models showcase the latest trends in fashion and modesty.

# Models of the 'Great Designer'

## Teen girls take fashion high road

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A runway extended to the center of the second-floor ballroom at the Westin hotel. A cluster of young girls lined the platform anxiously awaiting the beginning of the show.

When the models emerged, the clothes became the backdrop as the message of purity took center stage.

It was the first annual Pure Fashion show in Charlotte, April 13. The show was the culmination of a seven-month program in which 69 teen girls between the ages of 14 and 18 learned the value of dressing modestly in a not-so-modest world.

Tickets to the show sold out in advance and the ballroom was filled to its 760-seat capacity.

"Charlotte is ready for this program," said Kathy Comer, Charlotte Pure Fashion chairwoman. "Just look around at the malls, in the schools and in the grocery stores. Modesty is more than the way you dress. It is an interior attitude."

The afternoon included a motivational talk, music and dance performances, a runway show, and a message from national Pure Fashion director, Brenda Sharman.

Three themes ran throughout them all: modesty, dignity, and glorifying God.

"It is heartening to know that young people are searching for ways to live in the modern world while retaining

Christian values and virtues," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte, who opened the event in prayer.

"Pure Fashion is a faith-based program that encourages teen girls to live, act, and dress in accordance with their dignity as children of God," according to its Web site.

Pure Fashion is sponsored by Regnum Christi, an apostolic Catholic movement associated with the Legionaries of Christ.

Maria Knuth, a consecrated woman of Regnum Christi who assisted with spiritual formation for the Charlotte program, said that the goal is to "teach the girls they can be fashionable and modest at the same time."

The unique thing about the program is that it "reaches girls you wouldn't normally reach with other church programs," she said.

Over the course of seven months, the girls learned lessons in public speaking, manners, hair and makeup artistry, and personal presentation. The Charlotte program also included an essay writing competition, service project, and retreat.

"We teach them that they are made in the image and likeness of God and are created to glorify God in all things, even in the way they dress," said Comer.

Meredith Walsh, a junior at Charlotte Latin School and a parishioner at St. Ann Church, said the program has helped her deepen her friendship with Christ.

"Pure Fashion has taught me that you can be fun and fashionable and have

"Modesty is more than the way you dress. It is an interior attitude."

— Kathy Comer

a relationship with Jesus," she said.

She added that one of the most rewarding aspects of the program is being a good role model for young girls.

"I like being able to help other girls see that they are children of God," she said. "We are all models of the Great Designer."

The importance of family was another message that came across strongly throughout the show.

"The seeds of modesty begin at the home," said Comer, mother to sons Braxton, 12, and Walker, 10, and daughter Lydia, 8. "It's never too early to start teaching our young girls the importance of living a life of dignity."

Not surprisingly, the idea behind Pure Fashion came from a group of mothers in Atlanta, seven years ago. It was institutionalized as a Regnum Christi apostolate two years ago and has

spread across the country and expanded internationally.

It is about "living your faith in your daily life," said Thalita Cortes, one of the finalists in the essay writing competition.

Cortes, an 8th grader at Community House Middle School and a St. Matthew parishioner, said that through Pure Fashion she became comfortable with herself and realized that there was "no pressure to be something else."

"This is what is meant to recognize true beauty," said Comer, "by learning the importance of living a life in accordance with God's will and fostering a life of grace through purity of mind, heart and body."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Two young onlookers share commentary from their front row seats at the first annual Pure Fashion Show held at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte, April 13.



## St. Matthew Catholic Church presents A Symposium on St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the  
Year of St. Paul. In preparation for this anniversary year  
we present the final two talks in this series:

Apr. 24: "A Church Built on Gifts and Propelled by the Spirit" - Susan Brady, MA, Biblical Studies, Providence College. For over 35 years she has taught high school youth and adults, lectured in churches of many denominations, given retreats, and taught week-long summer seminars on some aspect of the Bible.

May 15: "Greeting the Greeks; Hailing the Hellenists" - Watching Paul as he engaged ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Fr. Christopher Schreck, S.T.B., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; S.S.I. (Licentiate in Sacred Scripture), Pontifical Biblical Institute; Ph.D. S.T.D., Catholic University of Leuven; past Chair, Dept. of Sacred Scripture, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; author of many articles published in academic journals. Fr. Schreck brings great insight into the New Testament and, specifically, St. Paul.

All programs are 7-8:30pm in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center.

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Please join us for any or all of these spiritually enriching presentations. All are welcome!



## IN THE NEWS

# 'The great Galileo'

*After four centuries, renowned astronomer to return to Vatican*

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Four centuries after he was called by church officials to retract teachings deemed suspect of heresy, the 17th-century Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei will be returning to Vatican City.

A statue of the great scientist will be erected in Vatican City to help commemorate next year's celebration of the International Year of Astronomy and the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope to observe the cosmos.

Paid for through private donations, the work of art was commissioned by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, but the statue still needs a place to call home.

The science academy "is one of the most beautiful masterpieces of Italian Renaissance art and, therefore, there is a problem of precisely where the statue should go" so as not to disrupt the aesthetic beauty of the landscape, the academy's president, Nicola Cabibbo, told Catholic News Service.

"The Vatican is very enthusiastic about the idea," he said, but "the problem is where. ... But something will be worked out," hopefully by next year when the jubilee kicks off.

Cabibbo, a particle physicist at Rome's Sapienza University, said honoring Galileo in such a way is important because the academy considers the scientist "to be one of the oldest members of our academy."

The pontifical academy has its roots in the world's oldest scientific academy — the National Academy of Lincei — of which Galileo was a member.

Cabibbo said a model of the statue shows Galileo standing and gesticulating as if he were giving a lesson.

Galileo, in fact, taught the church several important lessons. Pope John Paul II outlined most of them in a 1992 speech when he formally acknowledged that the church erred when it condemned the astronomer for maintaining that Earth revolved around the sun.

After accepting the findings of a commission he had appointed in 1981 to study the Galileo trial, the pope told members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences that the Galileo case held important lessons concerning "the nature of science and the message of faith."

One key point, he said, was that the whole affair underlined "the duty for theologians to keep themselves regularly informed of scientific advances" so they could see whether there was cause for "introducing changes in their teaching."

## Incorrect condemnation

Galileo's condemnation in 1633 by the Holy Office, predecessor of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is often used to symbolize the tensions between science and religion; critics often use the Galileo affair to suggest religion might somehow be an obstacle to the

advancement of human knowledge.

This "myth," as Pope John Paul had called it, is still alive and well, despite the late pope's hopes of putting the Galileo case to rest for good.

Earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI canceled a planned visit to Sapienza University after more than 60 professors wrote a letter protesting the visit, saying the pope was "hostile to science."

One accusation — based on an erroneous page on the Italian Wikipedia Web site — held that the pope was "against Galileo."

The page, which has since been corrected, said that in a 1990 speech the future pope endorsed a modern philosopher's opinion that the church's trial of Galileo was "reasonable and just" when in fact the pope had called the author's opinion "drastic."

During a talk to young people at the Vatican in 2006, Pope Benedict praised the scientist as "the great Galileo" who understood mathematics as the language of God the creator.

## Power of proof

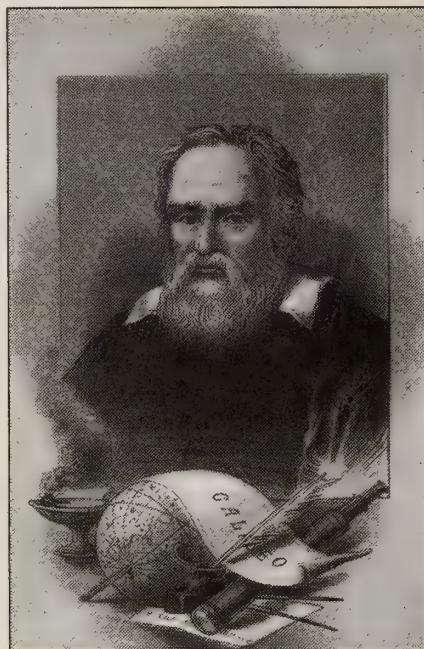
Born in Pisa in 1564, Galileo was one of the most important mathematicians, physicists, astronomers and inventors of his era. Through his telescopic observations he discovered sunspots, the moon's pocked and mountainous surface and Jupiter's satellites.

He also provided evidence for Copernicus' view that Earth revolved around the sun. At the time, the generally held theological view was based on several Old Testament verses and attested the sun revolved around a stationary Earth.

This view of the Earth-sun relationship was considered an essential part of the overall belief that humans, as redeemed by Christ, are the center of the universe.

Galileo argued his controversial heliocentric view did not oppose faith.

He believed the Bible was not meant



CNS PHOTO BY BRITISH LIBRARY/HIP/ART RESOURCE

Italian astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei is seen with a globe, telescope and quill pen in this 19th-century painting. A statue of Galileo is to be erected at the Vatican, four centuries after he was called by church officials to retract teaching suspected of heresy.

to give scientific explanations of nature; in a letter he once paraphrased a famous remark by Italian Cardinal Caesar Baronius saying sacred Scripture does not reveal what is in the heavens, but rather how to get to heaven.

Jesuit Father Sabino Maffeo, the Vatican Observatory's vice director for administration, told CNS that Galileo ran into trouble with the Holy Office because he did not have proof for his claims.

"Not having proof ... (the Holy Office) was forced to hold on to the centuries-old concept" that saw Earth as the center of the cosmos, he said.

If he had had proof, which did not come for another 100 years with discoveries made by Isaac Newton, Galileo's fate could have been much different, Father Maffeo said.

"The Vatican is very enthusiastic about the idea."

— Nicola Cabibbo

He added that Italian Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, who was part of the 17th-century Vatican commission that admonished Galileo not to hold or defend the Copernican theory, had told Galileo "the day in which you bring a demonstration then we will have to look at how sacred Scripture gets interpreted differently, but as long as there is no proof, we will continue to interpret (Scripture) literally as we have all along."

## Church and science

The Stensen Institute, a Jesuit-run cultural center in Florence, Italy, has organized a world congress for spring 2009 to re-examine the Galileo affair.

Members of the Vatican Observatory, the Pontifical Council for Culture and the sciences academy are some of the experts invited to the congress to show how "recent scientific and historical research" could help alleviate the "tension and conflict" still clouding the relationship between the church and science, said Jesuit Father Ennio Brovedani, head of the Stensen Institute.

The Jesuit is just one of a number of scholars who believes there is still more to be done to assure the public that the church has made peace with Galileo.

Cardinal Paul Poupard, who was the last to head Pope John Paul's commission on Galileo, told CNS that the late pontiff once asked him, "Well, Eminence, has the case been closed?"

"I told him, 'No, there will still be women and men who with (free will) will be able to think whatever they want,'" the cardinal said.

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## CSS AWARENESS WEEK

# CSS Awareness Week 2008

*Helping people across the diocese and beyond*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

**CHARLOTTE** — In a Russian orphanage, a 1-year-old boy sits idly in a crib.

In Greensboro, N.C., an immigrant from the Dominican Republic worries about her three children. Supporting her family keeps her away from home for long hours and the children resent her time away.

In Charlotte, an elderly couple has a bleak future — the husband has dementia and the wife is overwhelmed by the decisions she now must make alone.

The thread running through these three stories isn't their tragic dimension; it is the hope of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte. CSS offers services that have touched the lives of these people and countless others. Their stories are contained within this week's issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

With CSS Awareness Week taking place April 19-27, these stories are reminders of the thousands of people helped each year in CSS offices

throughout the 46-county diocese.

In Asheville, Winston-Salem, High Point, Greensboro, Charlotte and Murphy, CSS offices offer marriage preparation courses and natural family planning instruction; pregnancy support; elder ministry; counseling, adoption and immigration services; refugee resettlement; burial assistance; and peer support groups for youths.

CSS is affiliated with Alexandria, Va.-based Catholic Charities USA, which has provided social services and organization leadership for U.S. dioceses since 1910.

CSS was first organized in North Carolina in 1947 and was a part of the Diocese of Charlotte when it was established in 1972.

Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte, said that each year more than 14,000 people in the 46 counties receive services, regardless of their religion or ethnicity.

"I constantly hear people say, 'Wow, I didn't know that,' when I describe the services offered by CSS. People are amazed," said Thurbee.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Far West Families First program watch as Judy Young holds up the key to her new home. The program, part of CSS Justice & Peace Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, helps struggling families gain financial independence. CSS Awareness Week takes place April 19-27.

Thurbee said CSS Awareness Week should make Catholics proud of the work done in the name of their faith.

"We were established to provide services to the vulnerable in our society, regardless of who that person may be, in accordance with Catholic social teaching," she said.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org).

# Jennifer, Mike and Andrew

*CSS adoption programs bring families together*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO THE  
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

**WAXHAW** — Jennifer and Michael Kellam of Waxhaw worked with Catholic Social Services' international adoption program to bring Andrew into their lives.

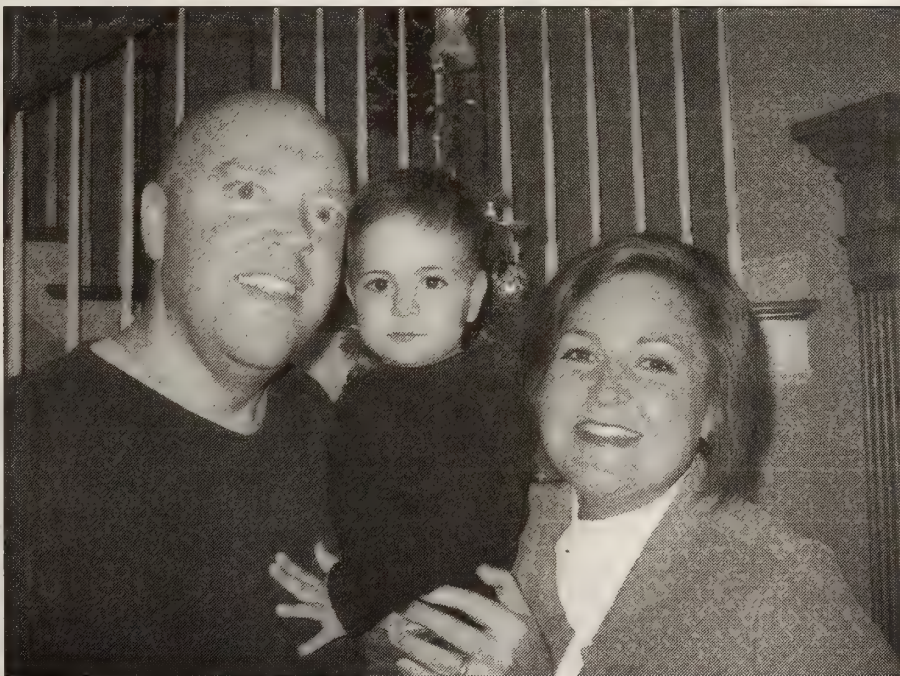
Andrew came from a Russian orphanage in late 2006, a week shy of his first birthday. He is now 27 months old.

Like all new parents, the Kellams are keeping track of their "greatest moments as parents." For Jennifer, it is whenever she hears Andrew laugh. For Michael, it is "when Andrew says 'Daddy' and runs to me or when he hugs me every morning," he said.

Licensed as a child-placing agency since 1948, CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte provides professional domestic and international adoptions based on the highest children welfare standards. The CSS program emphasizes support, preparation and education.

CSS' international adoption program, based in CSS's Western Region Office in Asheville, places children from several regions in Russia and assists in adopting children from China.

Since its founding in 1994, the program has placed more than 600 Russian children in U.S. homes. CSS currently places between 50 and 80 children each year with families —



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael and Jennifer Kellam of Waxhaw are pictured in their home in December 2007 with Andrew, a boy they adopted from Russia through Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte in late 2006. The Kellams are in the process of adopting a second Russian child through CSS.

couples married at least two years — and with single women who have been carefully screened and prepared to welcome children.

In 2000, the Russian Federation required agencies placing children from Russia be accredited by the Russian government. Reaccreditations occurred annually until 2006, when the Russian government delayed the process while instituting new requirements.

In 2007, CSS was among the first eight agencies worldwide to be accredited by the Russian Federation.

CSS' accreditation was the culmination of months of intensive scrutiny to ensure applicant agencies were prepared to conduct adoption services within the government's new guidelines.

CSS is the only Catholic agency in the United States with a direct placement program in Russia. This means CSS deals directly with Russian authorities in placing children in U.S. homes, usually making the adoption process faster and less expensive than an agency without direct placement capability.

CSS staff located in Moscow and

other areas assist adoptive parents in all phases of the process.

Children from infancy to school age are placed in suitable homes. CSS encourages the placement of siblings. Adoptions are usually completed in 12-18 months.

The Kellams describe their adoptive experience through CSS as "wonderful."

"We felt free to call the staff anytime. There was always someone available to talk with us," said Jennifer Kellam.

"CSS was very upfront and efficient and made the whole process as smooth as possible," she said.

The Kellams are in the process of adopting a second child from Russia through CSS. They are all excited that Andrew will soon have a brother or a sister.

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

CSS adoption services are offered to any qualified family, regardless of religious affiliation. CSS values diversity and works with families from many ethnic cultures and economic backgrounds.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on CSS' international adoption program, call (888) 990-4199 or visit [www.cssnc.org/internationaladoption.html](http://www.cssnc.org/internationaladoption.html). For information on CSS' domestic adoption program, visit [www.cssnc.org/domesticadoption.html](http://www.cssnc.org/domesticadoption.html) or call (828) 255-0146 in Asheville, (704) 370-3262 in Charlotte or (336) 714-3203 in Winston-Salem.



# CSS: Volunteering to offer warm welcomes

*William LaMay, a volunteer with Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte, assists a family of refugees from Eritrea with apartment-living basics in Charlotte in February 2008. LaMay, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and a member of CSS' board of directors, is a finalist for Catholic Charities USA's 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award due to his tireless efforts to assist refugees through the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office.*



COURTESY PHOTO

## Louise and Stewart

### *Counseling services help couple face difficult moments*

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO THE  
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

*Editor's note: Names have been changed for privacy.*

CHARLOTTE — He was her first boyfriend.

But "first loves" usually don't last and so it was for Louise and Stewart, who eventually went their separate ways.

Thirty-eight years later, Louise's husband had died and Stewart was divorced.

He called her and the old flame was kindled.

She moved to Charlotte and love led to marriage. Together in their 50s, it looked as if they would glide together into the golden years.

But when Louise and Stewart were in their 60s, something began happening to Stewart. A medical diagnosis confirmed it — he had dementia.

"It was like going into a dark valley that he will not come out of," said Louise.

As Stewart lost his ability to speak, he began communicating his pain in a journal.

"I am tears on my pillow," he wrote.

Louise's loss was coupled with

fear about finances and their future. She wondered how she would take care of him.

As they had always been a self-reliant couple, Louise believed she could talk through a problem and resolve it.

But Stewart could no longer speak, and as a senior citizen with limited resources, Louise had no access to professional counseling.

There was just too much on her plate until a bulletin announcement at her parish, St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, offered a spark of hope: Catholic Social Services provides professional counseling services.

Louise began meeting with a counselor and started talking about the things that frightened her.

After four months, the will was taken care of, Medicaid was arranged and her finances were in order.

Even with some issues resolved, Louise's time now with Stewart may not be what they had envisioned when they met more than 40 years ago, or what they anticipated when they married late in life.

But it is a life of dignity and caring, as Louise spends her days with her husband.

"He likes me to sit with him and hold his hand," she said.

Louise is appreciative of all the

help they received from CSS.

"CSS supports me in what I have to do. CSS helps me take care of me," said Louise.

"There are lots of supports out there and CSS gave me the courage to take advantage of them," she said. "I didn't want to sit and fear the future and, thanks to CSS, I don't."

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

#### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about CSS' counseling services, visit

[www.cssnc.org/counseling.html](http://www.cssnc.org/counseling.html), or call:

- in Asheville: (828) 255-0146
- in Charlotte: (704) 370-3262
- in Greensboro: (336) 274-5577
- in Murphy: (828) 835-3535
- in Winston-Salem: (336) 727-0705



COURTESY PHOTO

Brenda Puckett, a counselor with Catholic Social Services, uses game techniques in a counseling session with a child at CSS' Charlotte Regional Office in 2007. The office utilizes a child therapy room to help children feel comfortable and safe. CSS provides counseling to individuals, couples, families and children in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Murphy and Winston-Salem.



# Ana Maria and her children

CSS' Latino Family Center helps mother, children realize American dream

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO THE  
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

*Editor's note: Names have been changed for privacy.*

HIGH POINT — At 32 years old, Ana Marie's life was looking bleak in the Dominican Republic.

She could not find work and felt resigned to live with her physically and emotionally abusive husband, because she saw no other way to support her three children — 16-year-old Nancy, 14-year-old Rita and 11-year-old Jorge.

But then one day in 2004, she was contacted by a cousin in North Carolina who told her there was work here, and that she could obtain proper documentation to enter the United States.

Ana Maria borrowed some money to make the move. But she could not afford to take all the children, so only Jorge made the trip. The girls were left with a grandmother.

Ana Maria's life in America was a regimen of hard work, worsened by her inability to be with her growing daughters. Back in the Dominican Republic, Nancy and Rita both felt abandoned by their mother.

While Nancy, who had seen her mother's bruises at the hands of her father, tried to understand the sacrifice, Ana Marie's absence was especially hard on Rita. She had grown quiet and seemingly had forgotten how to smile.

Finally after two years, Ana Maria earned enough money to send for the girls.

Unfortunately Ana Maria's story did not have a fairy tale ending upon reuniting with her daughters. She struggled with the trauma of the domestic violence she had suffered.

She also worked such long hours to support her family that she wasn't connecting with her children; it seemed to them that they were being abandoned, yet again.

The girls became estranged from her. Nancy began skipping school and was constantly angry toward her mother and siblings. Rita still wouldn't smile. Jorge was withdrawn and quiet as he tried to adjust to life in a new country.

The turning point for the family came when they met Leticia Ontiveros

from Catholic Social Services' Latino Family Center in High Point.

Ontiveros introduced Ana Maria's daughters to the Hermanas (Sisters) program for Latina women.

At first, Nancy was quiet during presentations that dealt with self-esteem and abstinence to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and sex. But it didn't take long for Nancy and her sister to begin enjoying the twice-a-week Hermanas meetings.

Now they are building a connection with their Hermanas' instructors, participating in activities and learning valuable skills and lessons that could change their lives and futures.

The Latino Family Center staff next arranged for Ana Maria and her children to receive family therapy. Irene Agudelo, a CSS caseworker, began serving as an interpreter for them.

Jorge has since joined the Hermanos (Brothers) program this past semester. He has made friends and learned positive decision-making skills.

Ana Maria participates in the center's Family Literacy program, where she learns English while her kids take part in other program activities.

Unlike previous holidays, Ana Maria's family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas recently, thanks to members of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, who donated food and gifts.

"It was a nice holiday season for the family," said Tanya Hoeller, Latino Family Center director. "Rita smiles now, and Ana Maria's whole family is full of gratitude."

*David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

NEED HELP?

Are you in need of CSS' immigration or Hispanic services? Contact:

- in Asheville (828) 258-2617
- in Charlotte (704) 370-3262
- in Hendersonville (828) 696-2330
- in Morganton (828) 438-1113
- in High Point (336) 884-5858
- in Winston-Salem (336) 574-2837

# Mirsad Suljakovic



Mirsad Suljakovic (right), a refugee from Bosnia-Herzegovina, reviews blueprints with Mick Saron (left) and Scott Knowles in Charlotte. Suljakovic found employment through Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office.

## Refugee finds new life, work through CSS

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Mirsad Suljakovic is pursuing the American dream, thanks to the help of Catholic Social Services.

Suljakovic, a refugee from Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been living and working in Charlotte through the efforts of CSS' Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte.

After losing a brother to the ethnic violence among Serbs, Muslims and Croats in the early 1990s in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a multiethnic, multireligious war-torn nation, Suljakovic and his family fled to Germany and applied for refugee status to enter the United States.

In 2001, they arrived in Charlotte with few possessions but with a fierce determination to make new lives for themselves.

CSS' Refugee Resettlement Office provided their first living arrangements, arranged for English as a second language classes and helped them find employment.

Suljakovic now works with a local cabinet design and installation company, putting his skills to use installing high-end cabinets. Company owner Scott

Knowles said taking a chance and hiring a refugee was "the best experience I have ever had in business."

He credits Suljakovic for his company's increased sales because of the skills, hard work and integrity he brings to the cabinet installers' team.

"Mirsad has helped us improve the quality and efficiency of our work," said Knowles, who is also chairman of the Refugee Resettlement Office's employment advisory committee.

The committee is comprised of local employers who assist CSS to broaden opportunities for refugee employment.

Six years later after arriving in Charlotte, Suljakovic and his wife own a home and are involved in their children's school and sports activities.

CSS also serves refugees resettled in the Asheville area from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on CSS' Refugee Resettlement Office, call (704) 370-3277 or visit [www.cssnc.org/refugee.html](http://www.cssnc.org/refugee.html).

CSS DATA FOR 2007			
IN 2007 CSS ASSISTED A TOTAL OF 16,322 UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS. FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE SPECIFIC SERVICES THAT WERE PERFORMED:			
Counseling	507	Education and Enrichment Activities	5,816
Pregnancy Support	54	Food Provisions	7,080
Adoption Services	243	Basic Needs Assistance	2,021
Refugee Services	1,725	Social Support	1,134
Immigration Services	1,147	Socialization Services	149
Burial Assistance	75		



# Jackie and Christopher

*Marriage prep class helps couple prepare for life of matrimony*

BY DAVID HAINS

SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — When the curtain went up on the romance of Jackie Dautel and Christopher Timmons, he was the technical director of Theatre Charlotte, she was working on the stage lighting for an upcoming show.

It didn't take long for 27-year-old Dautel and 29-year-old Timmons to become a couple. They dated for two years before deciding to commit their lives to one another in marriage.

Jackie and Christopher Timmons were married Oct. 6, 2007 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Like all Catholic couples contemplating marriage in the Diocese of Charlotte, before they could make the sacrament of matrimony they first had to complete a marriage preparation class.

Marriage preparation classes are offered through Catholic Social Services throughout the year at locations in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Hickory and Arden. Parishes sometimes offer the classes as well.

Jackie and Christopher Timmons' class was scheduled for a Saturday at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. As luck would have it, the weather outside was beautiful that day and the couple admitted they were not thrilled with spending the day indoors. Additionally, like many engaged couples, they were busy with wedding preparations.

"We weren't very excited about the class," said Jackie Timmons.

But after the class, their attitude about it — and their marriage and life together — had changed for the better.

"I remember coming out of the class and thinking, 'that was cool,'" said Christopher Timmons. "There were a lot of things that I gained and we gained."

The classes are divided into sections,



COURTESY PHOTO

each beginning with a lecture. Topics include marriage as a sacrament and covenant, marital sexuality and natural family planning, conflict resolution and money and finances."

After each section, the couples spend time together discussing their thoughts and feelings. Jackie and Christopher Timmons quickly discovered they had not had a deep understanding of each other's families.

And, they realized, they also had not spent much time discussing the handling of their finances once married.

"It was good to talk about all of those things that make the relationship stronger," said Jackie Timmons.

For other couples who may see the class as a time-consuming "to do" during a hectic time, Christopher Timmons has advice: "I would highly recommend it. It presents situations and information that you may not have talked about with your significant other."

"It definitely brought us closer together," he said.

#### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about marriage preparation, call (704) 370-3228 or visit [www.cssnc.org/engaged.html](http://www.cssnc.org/engaged.html).

#### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

**Family Life Office:** [cssflo@charlottediocese.org](mailto:cssflo@charlottediocese.org) (704) 370-3228

Elder ministry (704) 370-3220

Family life (704) 370-3250

Marriage preparation (704) 370-3228

Respect life/Rachel's Vineyard retreat (704) 370-3229 or (704) 370-3228

Natural family planning (704) 370-3228

**Justice & Peace Office:** [justicepeace@charlottediocese.org](mailto:justicepeace@charlottediocese.org) (704) 370-3225

Office of Economic Opportunity (828) 835-3535

**Refugee Resettlement Office:** [cssro@charlottediocese.org](mailto:cssro@charlottediocese.org) (704) 370-3262

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Pregnancy support (704) 370-3262

Adoptions — domestic (704) 370-3262, international (888) 990-4199

Burial assistance (704) 370-3262

Support, information and referral services (704) 370-3262

**Piedmont Triad Regional Office:** [csspto@charlottediocese.org](mailto:csspto@charlottediocese.org) (336) 727-0705

Counseling (336) 727-0705

Pregnancy support, emergency assistance, food pantry (336) 727-0705

Adoptions — domestic (336) 727-0705, international (888) 990-4199

YESS programs (336) 727-4263

Host Homes (336) 725-4678

Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745

Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577

Casa Guadalupe - Greensboro (336) 574-2837

Latino Family Center - High Point (336) 884-5858

**CSS Western Regional Office:** [csswro@charlottediocese.org](mailto:csswro@charlottediocese.org) (828) 255-0146

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Pregnancy support (828) 255-1970

Adoptions — domestic (828) 255-1970, international (888) 990-4199

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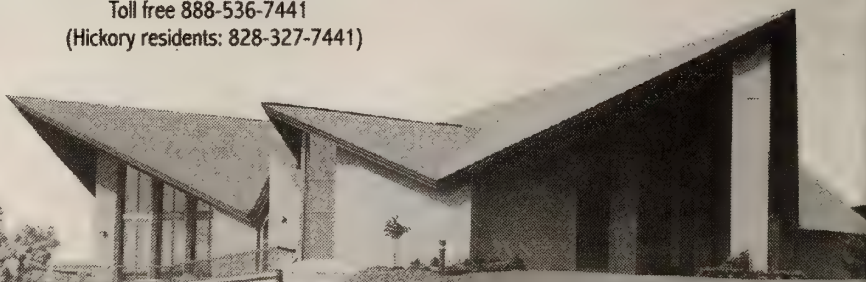
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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## New documentary showcases faith, witness of Sisters of Mercy

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Mercy Sister JoAnne Courneen recalls holding in her arms a woman who was crying out in pain at a homeless shelter in Washington several years ago.

It was a defining moment for her. "At that moment you realize God is really in your life. (The poor) are really the face of God for us," says Sister Courneen in a new documentary film produced about the Erie Sisters of Mercy.

On Jan. 1, they joined Mercy sisters in Buffalo, the Philippines, Pittsburgh and Rochester to form the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community.

Sister Courneen, who serves on the leadership team for the new community, says the incident made her realize that everyone is one bad decision away from being homeless.

Titled "Meeting of the Waters," the film is being released as a DVD. It premiered for the general public March 12 in Erie. It begins with the setting sun on the beaches of Lake Erie as a sister writes in a journal. She reflects on her calling as a sister after an emotional assembly in Buffalo, N.Y., last July that united the five regional communities of the Sisters of Mercy.

Moving moments of the assembly are woven into the film. Erie Sisters of Mercy have warmly embraced the film.

"There was some laughter and tears," Mercy Sister Mary Ann Bader said in an interview after attending a private screening in February. "It was profoundly moving; different than what I expected."

Using candid interviews and moving imagery, the hourlong film tells the stories of Sisters of Mercy who live out their commitment to religious life each day. Mini-features include a Mercy associate's faith story and a sister's invitation to women to consider a vocation to religious life.

"It's a very human story of women who were led by the Spirit to live out religious life according to the charism of mercy," said Gary Loncki, the

community's communications director.

Loncki worked with Mercy associates to enlist Imago Dei Video Productions to make the film.

Filmmaker Greg Schlueter said most people find religious life intriguing and baffling as those who enter it forgo sexual intimacy, worldly opportunity and material possessions.

"Yet somewhere behind that door are real women who hold the keys to something we're all pursuing, who give witness to tremendous joy. That's what we wanted to capture: real women, in their own words, describing what they're about, why they do what they do," said Schlueter, whose Erie-based company has worked on several national projects such as Disney's "The Chronicles of Narnia," A&E's "God or the Girl" and Warner Bros.' "Superman's Return."

In the film, Sister Mary Dolores Jablonski tells of how her parents were reluctant to support her desire to enter religious life.

"They just wanted grandchildren," says Sister Jablonski, executive director of the Mercy Center on Aging.

Sister Carol Ann Voltz, a nurse's aide at the Sisters of St. Joseph living center, tells how the example of sisters led her to consider becoming one of them. "I was just so attracted to it," she says.

Sister Michele Marie Schroeck looks back on her years as a Mercy sister and finds her life fulfilling.

"I'm happier than I ever thought I would be," she says.

The film explores the impact the Second Vatican Council has had on the sisters' lives and what the Sisters of Mercy foundress, Mother Catherine McAuley, means to them.

Music for the film was scored by Tim and Ryan O'Neill, internationally known as "The Piano Brothers." The O'Neills have sold more than a million compact discs of their inspirational and moving music.

They have six Billboard hits and their music has appeared on HBO, PBS, A&E and ESPN.

April 27, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
- Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
- 2) 1 Peter 3:15-18
- Gospel: John 14:15-21

## Learning to let go and let God

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A year ago, five other women and I formed a group to be spiritual companions to each other. We gather periodically to read Scripture, pray and "listen to God."

As we gradually have become secure enough in our friendship to reveal deeply held issues and experiences, we have found ourselves taking on each other's concerns as our own. Now we are a small community of faith, sharing our lives, in love, through the life of Christ.

As companions we've grown to be able to help one another discern God's will in each of our own circumstances. At any given gathering it is common for one person to tell another, "Something you

said to me last time came back to me," helping that person resolve a particular problem or understand a situation more clearly.

Recently, for instance, we read a Scripture passage about placing trust in God instead of human capability. Someone lamented a long-running frustration in her life that seemed it would never be resolved.

"I know I should trust God," she said, "but really, I just can't believe it will work out."

One of the other women nodded in understanding, but said gently, "It will. It will." She spoke in such total confidence of the risen Lord's goodness that her friend was able to regain her trust.

The Holy Spirit acted through our communal love and faith.

In this weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." When that happens, he adds, the Father will send the Holy Spirit to dwell within and among them and constantly reveal himself to them.

Love and commitment to Jesus -- and in him to each other -- promises his life to us "always."

Questions:

What is an example of how your love of Jesus opened you to the grace of the Holy Spirit? How has the Spirit helped you to remain in Jesus and the Father?

Scripture to be illustrated:

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 20-26

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; Monday (St. Anselm), Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; Tuesday, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; Wednesday (St. George, St. Adalbert), Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; Thursday (St. Fidelis), Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; Friday (St. Mark), 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; Saturday, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27-MAY 3

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; Monday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort), Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; Tuesday (St. Catherine of Siena), Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; Wednesday (St. Pius V), Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday (Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; Friday (St. Athanasius), Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; Saturday (Sts. Philip and James), 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14.

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## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

*For the month of April, here are some historical facts about the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, which was designated a minor basilica by Pope John Paul II in April 1993.*

*The title of minor basilica is granted to prominent and significant churches throughout the world as a sign of papal honor. The title is reserved for a handful of churches — 11 in Rome, 34 in the United States.*



COURTESY PHOTO

### Dates of Interest

- **April 6, 1993:** St. Lawrence Church designated a minor basilica by Pope John Paul II
- **March 24, 1978:** St. Lawrence placed on the National Register of Historic Places
- **Dec. 14, 1968:** Newly acquired relic of St. Lawrence deposited with other relics (Sts. Felicitas and Zeno) in the new altar during its consecration by Raleigh Bishop Vincent S. Waters.
- **Oct. 13, 1920:** Consecration of St. Lawrence Church, attended by Cardinal James Gibbons
- **October 1909:** St. Lawrence Church dedicated by Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid of Belmont Abbey

### Historical Background

— The original St. Lawrence Church was dedicated in 1869, but did not have a resident pastor until 1887.

— One of the early missionary priests who served at the first St. Lawrence Church was Father Thomas Price, who would later become famous as the co-founder of the Maryknoll Missioners. His cause for canonization is currently open.

— The famous Spanish architect, Rafael Guastavino, who had earlier assisted with the Biltmore House in Asheville, helped design the basilica.

The second St. Lawrence Church had become too crowded in the summers, and on one particular Sunday, Guastavino had been unable to find a seat. This prompted him to offer the pastor, Father Peter Marion, his architectural services so

that a new larger church could be constructed.

Father Marion, who had been very ill, had promised God that if his life was spared for a few more years, he would do some special work for the Lord's honor and glory.

His younger brother and assistant pastor, Father Patrick Marion, reminded him of this promise, and they accepted Guastavino's offer.

— The prototype of St. Lawrence Basilica was Our Lady of the Forsaken Basilica in Valencia, Spain, the native city of the architect, Rafael Guastavino.

"During Bishop Gibbons' first visit to Asheville, in 1868, a vacant space containing about seven and a half acres in the centre of the town attracted his and the clergy's attention. A more suitable site for a church and other ecclesiastical buildings could not be found.

"It was purchased at a moderate sum from Colonel N.A. Woodfin, an eminent lawyer ... who also contributed handsomely towards the contemplated object. The people were anxious for the establishment of a Catholic church. ... They [Fathers L.P. and J.P. O'Connell] succeeded, after much labor, in realizing the necessary funds, and the following year a commodious brick building was erected, and dedicated by Bishop Gibbons, under the invocation of St. Lawrence."

*Father J.J. O'Connell,  
"Catholicity in the Carolinas  
and Georgia"*

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### Director of the Office of Christian Formation

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a full-time Director for the Office of Christian Formation. The director shares in the Bishop's role as chief catechist of the diocese by providing leadership that fulfills the vision of the bishop for age-appropriate and life-long catechetical formation as expressed in the annual goals of the office. The director supervises the total catechetical effort of the office and gives special attention to adult faith formation. Minimum qualifications include a master's degree in religious education, theology, or related field, and at least five years' experience in parish religious education with diocesan level experience preferred. Additional information is on the diocesan website, [www.richmonddiocese.org](http://www.richmonddiocese.org). Closing date is May 14, 2008.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to [pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org) or mail to P. Barkster, HR Administration Coordinator, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, VA 23294-4201.

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PAPAL VISIT TO USA

# Pope's first U.S. visit underway

POPE, from page 1

of Washington; Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., USCCB vice president; and Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

Although the two spoke privately for less than 10 minutes in a building on the air base grounds, neither Bush nor the pope delivered any formal remarks at the air base. The pope's official welcome was to take place the next day at the White House.

In their meeting, Pope Benedict sat at a small round table, and the pontiff accepted a glass of juice. The president sat on the pope's right and the first lady on the pope's left. Cardinal George and Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, also were at the table.

It was the first time in his presidency that Bush had gone to Andrews to welcome any head of state. The air base has hosted more than 300 arrivals or departures by heads of state since 2006.

Joining the president in greeting Pope Benedict were first lady Laura Bush and the Bushes' daughter Jenna.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said at an April 15 briefing before the pope's arrival that Bush would tell the pontiff at the White House that "the hearts of the American people are open to the Holy Father's message of hope."

Pope Benedict "will hear from the president that America and the world need to hear his message that God is love, that human life is sacred, that we all must be guided by common moral law, and that we have responsibilities to care for our brothers and sisters in need at home and across the world," Perino added.

Perino admitted that the pope and the president disagreed on issues such as the war in Iraq and the death penalty but said that "there is much more agreement between these two leaders than there is disagreement."

"I really don't think that the president



CNS PHOTO BY JIM YOUNG

Pope Benedict XVI is greeted by Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, vice-president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as he arrives at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington April 15.

is planning to spend a lot of time talking about the issues of Iraq with the pope," she said. "But I do think that the root cause of ... terrorism and extremism is something that they will talk about."

At Andrews, the wind ensemble from Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., provided entertainment while a crowd of approximately 1,200 people assembled before the pope's arrival. The group was chosen to perform because they were going to Disney World for a competition later in the week and would miss the April 17 papal Mass

at Nationals Park in Washington.

After Pope Benedict spoke privately with the president, he and Archbishop Sami boarded a limousine that was to take them to the apostolic nunciature, where the pope was to spend the night.

*Contributing to this story was Patricia Zapor at Andrews Air Force Base.*

**SEE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR A COMPLETE WRAP-UP OF THE POPE'S VISIT.**

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THAT IS ALL THAT IS GOD MAY BE KNOWN



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Fridays again days of abstinence?

*Q. A new priest in our area tells us that all Fridays are again days of abstinence. Another priest says it is a sin if we do not perform some act of penance on Fridays.*

*I know the rules about fast and abstinence during Lent, and we should do some penance on all Fridays, but I've never heard the obligation expressed in terms of sin. Is there a change? (Pennsylvania)*

A. No, there is no change. I have a suspicion someone misunderstood the priest, and he was referring to abstinence on all Fridays of Lent.

In his apostolic constitution entitled "Paenitemini" (Feb. 17, 1966), changing the church regulation about abstinence from meat on Friday, Pope Paul VI was not replacing one kind of sin with another.

The pope said he was pointing out "the implications and importance of the Lord's command to repent," since all members of the church "are in continuous need of conversion and reform."

The fact that a spirit of penitence is primarily an interior religious experience, he writes, does not lessen the need for exterior practice of this virtue.

Because this need is so essential in Christian life, it "prompts the church, always attentive to the signs of the times, and according to the character of each age, to seek beyond fast and abstinence new expressions more suitable for the realization of the precise goal of penitence."

In other words, practices of penance effective for spiritual renewal at one period of time may not be the best for another period. Thus the church today invites everyone to accompany his or her inner conversion, for example, at times during Lent with "voluntary exercise of external acts of penitence."

Note the word "voluntary." One can understand what Pope Paul is getting at in this frantic and stressful age when he says the attitude or virtue of penitence should be exercised first of all in persevering faithfulness to the duties of one's state in life.

Not many would dispute that devoted, loving steadfastness in fulfilling our daily responsibilities automatically brings with it numerous opportunities for self-denial and patience.

The pope mentions specifically the difficulties arising from one's work, from one's human relationships, from the stress of insecurity that pervades modern life and the anxieties of each day's struggles as additional sources of mortification and self-restraint.

If anyone lovingly and generously tries to observe these habitual practices

### Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN  
CNS COLUMNIST



of penance the pope offers, it is hardly conceivable that he or she could go through a whole day without some sort of prayer, self-control and expressions of love that are prescribed by our Lord as well as by traditional Christian spirituality.

Pope Paul, in other words, had no intention to belittle or diminish the importance of penance. He was asking something even more demanding; go back to the command of Christ, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23), and ask yourself what, if anything, that means to you.

Nine months after the publication of "Paenitemini," the American bishops made its provisions specific for the United States, abrogating the law of Friday abstinence from meat except during Lent.

Without making it a "law," in the spirit of the pope's message they recommended Friday abstinence as a praiseworthy, voluntary (not mandatory) act of self-denial.

*Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.*

## Janet's bag of blessings

Ordinary things can be extraordinary reminders of God's grace

Janet came to the sacristy after Mass with a plastic bag.

"Father," she said, "can you bless some things?"

People often bring things to be blessed after Mass. Sometimes there is a little line. It is part of our "sacramentalizing" impulse in Catholicism, by which I mean the desire to make the "ordinary" things of creation into "extraordinary" reminders of God's grace.

Ordinary things are holy when they are set apart for God.

In Janet's bag were some "holy things." There was a St. Rita of Cascia pill box. St. Rita was an Italian saint of the 14th century. She is patroness of impossible causes, aches and pains, and, most importantly, forgiveness.

She had to forgive the murder of her husband. She also bore on her head the wounds of Jesus' crown of thorns.

So she is sometimes thought of as a patron to people who have pain. Hence the pill box.

Blessing the pill box makes it a holy vessel of the medications and a way to say that real healing comes through the spirit in forgiveness.

Not a bad message.

Janet also had a Sacred Heart of Jesus coffee mug.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a puzzlement to many people. They don't understand the flame bursting out of Jesus' chest. But I think they are missing a great insight.

One of my favorite novenas is to the Sacred Heart. That novena speaks of Christ's heart as a burning furnace of love for us.

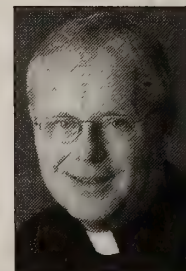
It may seem a little irreverent, but I always think of that Elvis song where he sings of "a hunk of burning love." Something really on fire for us.

It is nice that when you are drinking your morning coffee you realize that your life is not just warmed by "Mister Coffee" but by the heart of Jesus.

Janet also had a wall plaque of the prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. People often confuse the Immaculate

### Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



Heart of Mary with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We have a man in our parish who always prays for fulfillment of the intentions of both.

I pointed out to him that we don't pray for the intentions of Jesus because Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, i.e., God. He does not need our help since he is, well, God.

But we do pray for the intentions of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We figure anything that Mary has adopted as a prayer intention must be a good thing.

After all, she taught Jesus to pray. As his mother, her prayers will get a hearing.

All of this is, of course, "anthropomorphic." We assume that God responds to human motivations. That might seem a little silly, but we do believe that we are made in God's image.

Besides, what else can we do? It is our nature to see things from a human perspective. God's will is only a partially revealed mystery.

Finally, Janet had a big set of glow-in-the-dark rosary beads. She said they had been blessed by the Blessed Mother at Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Evidently Mary tells pilgrims they should take it to a priest to be blessed. I was flattered. While I could hardly improve on Mary's blessing, I could see Janet's point that it is still important that the priest pronounce it holy as a representative of Christ and his church.

Not everybody is a walking religious goods store like Janet. But I understand her desire.

She wants to make the whole world into something sacred. That is a good thing.

### Letter to the Editor

## Powerful defense of life

Dear Editor:

The pro-life advertisement published by our Bishop Peter Jugis in the March 21, 2008 issue of The Catholic News & Herald is the most powerful and inspiring defense of life I have encountered. God has blessed the diocese of Charlotte with a courageous bishop whose words and actions reveal his deep respect for all

life, especially that of the unborn child. May we, his flock, follow the leadership of our Christ-like shepherd in defending all life.

—Mary Rose Pearl  
Rutherfordton, NC

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottdiocese.org.



# Children on the battlefield

## Christians can't ignore 'scourges of humanity'

In his Easter message Pope Benedict XVI said, "How often relations between individuals, between groups and between peoples are marked not by love but by selfishness, injustice, hatred and violence." And these "scourges of humanity, open and festering in every corner of the planet," are often ignored.

Every day the news is filled with reports of murder, rape, war and every other array of hatred and violence. It's almost impossible to escape the ongoing news of man's inhumanity to man.

So then why is the pope stating the obvious?

Well, when things become so commonplace, when we hear similar reports over and over, we tend to get used to them. Even the most horrible stories — if we're not careful — fail to move us.

And as Pope Benedict observed, we end up ignoring the "scourges of humanity."

One of the worst scourges of humanity is an underreported, ongoing tragedy suffered by many of the world's forgotten children.

According to Human Rights Watch, approximately 250,000 children under

18 and some as young as 8 years old are recruited and forced to serve in state-run armies, paramilitaries and guerilla groups around the world.

Known as "child soldiers," these boys and girls serve as combatants, spies, sex slaves and human mine detectors.

According to Human Rights Watch, "Children suffer higher mortality, disease and injury rates in combat situations than adults. The lasting effects of war and abuse may also remain with them long after the shooting stops.

"Both girls and boys may be stigmatized and traumatized by their experiences and left with neither family connections nor skills to allow them to transition successfully into productive adult lives."

In 2006 the U.S. State Department listed Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda as countries using child soldiers in government forces or government-linked militias.

Yet the U.S. government continues to give military assistance to these nations.

A bill designed to significantly improve this misguided foreign policy

### Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



and provide concrete means to help countries end their reliance on children as soldiers is sitting in the U.S. Senate gathering dust.

The Child Soldier Prevention Act (S1175), if passed into law, would provide funding designed to assist offending governments to disarm, demobilize and rehabilitate child soldiers from government forces and government-sponsored paramilitaries.

Having signed the U.N. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, which sets 18 as the minimum age for forced recruitment or participation in hostilities, the United States has an obligation to do everything within its power to stop the unspeakable practice of using child soldiers.

No matter how much Catholics disagree on the issue of military spending, we should all certainly be able to agree that the use of child soldiers is an intolerable practice that cannot be ignored.

With just a little time and effort here, we can help advance Pope Benedict's goal of replacing selfishness, injustice, hatred and violence — with love.

# Sticker shock: Jesus wasn't kidding

## Extra! Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



## Committed believers can bring about needed revolution

One of the better methods to escape boredom while creeping through chronic traffic congestion morning and night is to read and then reflect upon the thoughts expressed on the bumper stickers of nearby cars.

This might be described as the "lectio divina" of today's urban roadways, readings that spark a thought that leads to further contemplation.

By these ubiquitous banners, vehicle owners proclaim many things: what they would rather be doing; the breeds of dogs they prefer; their view on Darwin and evolution; their son's or daughter's status on the middle school's honor roll; the fate awaiting those who follow too closely or their various fatalistic views of life often expressed in scatological terms.

Some are like potato chips — two bites and they are gone and forgotten. Others are like chili, returning in a minute of two with an aftertaste not easily forgotten.

Such was the case recently.

"May all who are hungry be fed," a bumper sticker proclaimed. What a nice thought, so pleasant, warm and giving. Then the aftertaste.

"May all who are hungry be fed."

Fed by whom?

That nice — and safe — statement wishing the poor well exemplifies the contrast between passive Christianity, something we belong to, with active Christianity, being what we are.

The countercultural revolution that Christianity must bring about in the world can come only by the active involvement of committed believers.

But to accept this is to accept several hard facts: Jesus wasn't kidding. The Sermon on the Mount is not poetry, but an imperative. "Thy kingdom come" is not an expression of longing, but a statement of absolute certainty.

Accepting the invitation to be Christian is not accepting membership in a moral uplift society; rather, it is making a commitment to be a disciple.

That bumper sticker served as an examination of conscience...the Christian imperative is a directive: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked.

Or as a once popular bumper sticker said: "Just do it."

# Generosity and renunciation

## Happiness resides in giving over taking

Many years ago, I knew two young men who were discerning a call to priesthood. Both decided to test their vocations by entering different religious orders.

Unlike a diocesan priesthood, each order would eventually call the men to a vow of poverty.

I mention "poverty" because it relates to my observations of them, both great guys, as they prepared to enter religious life.

One of them was very thrifty. Before he entered, he methodically sold his possessions at garage sales.

He really wouldn't need the money, I thought, going off on this pilgrimage of renunciation. But maybe he was hedging his bets.

The other guy gave everything away. He had accumulated a lot of quality clothing when he worked for a haberdasher during college. He distributed it all to cousins and friends.

It didn't seem to occur to him — or he didn't care — that if he didn't stay, he could use some of those possessions later.

My 16-year-old brother was visiting me at the time, and this friend handed him a pair of fine shoes.

"Wow," my baby brother said, "this

has been a great trip." He didn't have much money and those shoes were a big deal to him.

Well, as it turned out, neither of the young men became priests. Both of them went on to marry and raise fine families. Luckily for me, one of them, the one who gave his fashionable clothes away, became my husband.

I share this memory because the attitudes people bring to money and possessions are such a fascinating part of who they are.

What makes us thrifty, sometimes to the point of hoarding, and what makes us open-handed?

CBS News recently reported on a study that purports to show that people who spend money on others are happier than people who spend money on themselves.

Of course, as Christians, this shouldn't surprise us. Christ called us to serve others and he assured us that the poor in spirit were blessed. True happiness follows the way of generosity and renunciation. At least that's what we aspire to.

Still, it's tough to conquer our inherent desire for security and possessions.

My mother, a child of the Great Depression who saw her father lose

### For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



his farm to creditors, was unable to overcome her need to hang on to money, although she was far more generous with her children than with herself.

Being truly my mother's daughter, I can identify with the friend who had the garage sales. I know he's a devoted Catholic, and I'm sure he's generous with time and money.

But I bet he calculates it well, watches every penny and keeps the receipts for his taxes.

I can identify with all of that.

Meanwhile, there are nights I lie awake worrying about finances while the man who shares my bed mutters "it's only money" and falls asleep.

Do we become happier because we give? Or do happier people give more?

Regardless of the answer, and regardless of the attitudes about money we grew up with, our faith calls us to constantly challenge ourselves to give more.

And if the end result of doing that is happiness, how can we go wrong?



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## Statistically speaking

Survey assesses Catholics' beliefs, practices on Mass, sacraments

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. Catholic Church prepared to welcome Pope Benedict XVI, a new survey found big differences among Catholics of different generations about the importance of the sacraments in their lives.

Asked which sacrament was most meaningful in their lives, 39 percent of respondents named baptism, 26 percent said marriage and 25 percent named the Eucharist. Among those who said they attended Mass weekly or more often, 52 percent said the Eucharist was most meaningful in their lives.

The study also divided respondents into four generations in relation to the Second Vatican Council: pre-Vatican II, comprised of those born before 1943; Vatican II, born between 1943 and 1960; post-Vatican II, born 1961 to 1981; and millennial Catholics, born after 1981.

While those of the first three generations chose the Eucharist as their most meaningful sacrament, 43 percent of the millennial Catholics said marriage was the sacrament most meaningful to them.

The survey of 1,007 self-identified adult Catholics was commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Department of Communications and conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. A 178-page report on the results was released April 13.

The margin of error for the survey was plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

The survey found that for each succeeding generation the percentage who had made their first Communion and first confession and received the

sacrament of confirmation declined.

While 95 percent of Catholics in the pre-Vatican II generation and 91 percent of the Vatican II generation said they had been confirmed, only 79 percent of post-Vatican II Catholics and 69 percent of millennial Catholics said they had received the sacrament of confirmation.

The percentage of Catholics who had made their first Communion ranged from 99 percent of pre-Vatican II Catholics to 85 percent of millennial Catholics. For first confession, the range was from 98 percent of the oldest generation to 84 percent of the youngest generation.

Only 2 percent of Catholics across all generations said they participated in the sacrament of reconciliation once a month or more, 12 percent said they did several times a year, 12 percent said they did once a year, 30 percent said less than once a year and 45 percent said they never made a sacramental confession.

The CARA report, titled "Sacraments Today: Belief and Practice Among U.S. Catholics," summarized responses to a wide range of questions about Catholics' attitudes toward and participation in the Mass and the sacraments, their knowledge of the Catholic faith, their views on church leadership and teachings, and whether they pray the rosary, carry religious objects or have pictures of Mary hanging in their homes.

Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco, who authorized the study as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications, said the results would offer guidance to church leaders.

"It reveals good will, healthy attitudes toward neighbor and an openness to the church among young Catholics," he said in a news release. "Yet it also points out a need for greater efforts in education for both adults and young people."

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- \* Tuscany's Florence awaits us, the birthplace of the Renaissance with Michelangelo's works and the Uffizi Gallery just part of our visit
- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

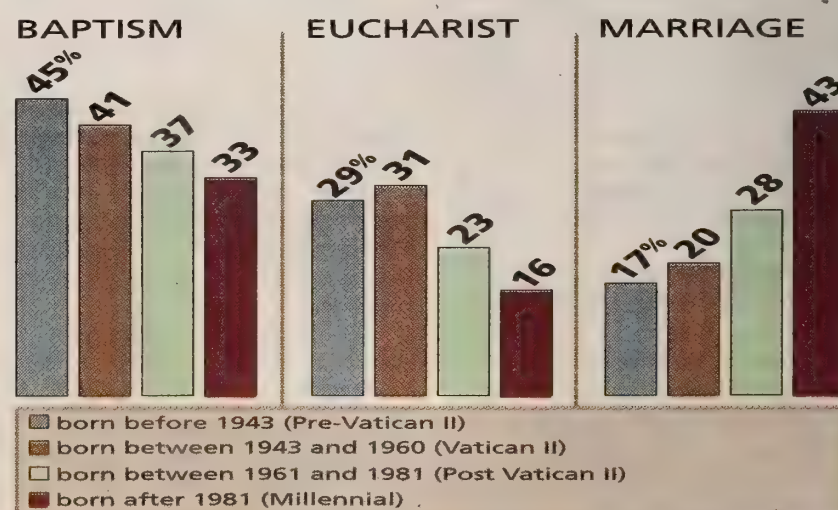
And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

\*per person with double occupancy

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

### Most Meaningful

Catholics differ by generation on what sacrament is most meaningful to them.



Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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CNS GRAPHIC BY EMILY THOMPSON

Baptism is named most often by U.S. Catholics as the most meaningful sacrament in their lives.





# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 NO 25

| PAGES 14-15

## Perspectives

The pope and the president;  
facing up to the abuse crisis;  
letters to the editor

## A stewardship way of life

Conference explores  
benefits of sharing  
God's gifts

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CONCORD — The advantages of stewardship are endless.

Such was the message shared at the seventh annual Regional Stewardship Day Conference, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Convention Center in Concord April 19.

Hundreds of participants from dioceses around the South

See GIFTS, page 5

## Seeking solutions

Monks search for  
new ways to support  
Mepkin Abbey in S.C.

BY CHRISTINA LEE  
KNAUSS

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MONCK'S CORNER, S.C. — The Trappist monks at Our Lady of Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, S.C., are looking at a variety of new ways to support themselves as they phase out their popular egg production business.

A 10-member advisory panel made up of Charleston-area business and banking executives, an organic farmer and two representatives of the Catholic community recently held an all-day brainstorming session on how the monks

See MONKS, page 13

## Invigorating the faith of his American flock



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Pope Benedict XVI waves to well-wishers as he leaves Nationals Park after celebrating Mass in Washington April 17.

In U.S., pope preaches  
message of hope built  
on faith

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — From the White House to the U.N. General Assembly hall and from Ground Zero to the Washington Nationals' baseball stadium, Pope Benedict XVI preached a message of hope built on faith and a joint commitment to defend the dignity of the human person.

He acknowledged the "evil" of the clerical sexual abuse crisis, met privately with a group of victims and encouraged the U.S. bishops to continue their work to restore trust in the church and its ministers.

Celebrating Mass April 19 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral with thousands of priests and religious, the pope

See POPE, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Vice President Dick Cheney, his wife Lynne, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Cardinal Edward M. Egan and Bishop DiMarzio wave as the plane carrying Pope Benedict XVI departs JFK International Airport in New York April 20.

## Parting with the pope

Pope Benedict says it was 'joy' to witness  
faith of U.S. Catholics

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Thanking Americans for their hospitality, Pope Benedict XVI departed the United States amid a cheering crowd of 4,000 people who had come to see him off.

"It has been a joy for me to witness the faith and devotion of the Catholic community here," the pope said April 20 in

brief remarks to those gathered in hangar 19 at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

"It was heartwarming to spend time with leaders and representatives of other Christian communities and other religions," Pope Benedict added.

Among those present at the airport were Cardinal Edward

See DEPART, page 6



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SERENITY AMONG THE SNOW



CNS PHOTO BY JAMES DECRANE

A statue of Our Lady of Beauraing stands in a grotto at St. Bernard Church in Talkeetna, Alaska. The statue, cast by World War II soldier George Herter, contains a splinter of a hawthorne tree brought from the original shrine to Mary in Belgium. The tiny 100-family parish is staffed by volunteers but welcomes thousands of tourists and mountain climbers.

## Pioneer spirit helps run rural Catholic church in Alaska

**TALKEETNA, Alaska (CNS)** — Nearly every parishioner at the rugged little Catholic church in Talkeetna is actively involved in running the rural Alaskan parish.

And no one is paid.

Nestled at the foothills of the largest mountain in North America, St. Bernard Church depends on of about 35 dedicated families.

Led by volunteer parish administrator Renamary Rauchenstein, the parish is reminiscent of Alaska's pioneer days, or even the time of the early church.

Parish decisions and responsibilities are decided once a month in town-hall-style meetings.

"It's been wonderful; not every parish can do this," Rauchenstein said. "Ninety percent of the people are involved in over 10 different committees."

"It's a small parish, a small town, but Renamary is a great leader," echoed parishioner Suzy Kellard.

The two women liken their church to an extended family. When someone hears of a parishioner in need, people rally to help out, either through supplying meals, prayers or delivering Communion.

Kellard describes a volunteer spirit that would likely be the envy of many parishes. And the helping hands reach far beyond the borders of Talkeetna.

"About a quarter of what we make here (collections, fundraisers) goes to outreach," Rauchenstein said.

The parish holds an annual bazaar to help raise money for other ministries in the Anchorage Archdiocese like the Mary Magdalene House and the Brother Francis Shelter, she said. Kellard and

her daughter also help the less fortunate in the Upper Susitna Valley through a parish-run food bank.

"Between here and Trapper Creek, we serve over 100 to 130 families," she said.

The small church also takes on a giant task each summer, playing host to literally thousands of tourists and mountain climbers who come to the small town for its most famous landmark — the 20,000-foot Mount McKinley. During this time, tourists flock to the church to attend Mass or quietly pray.

Parishioners said many climbers attend church to pray before attempting to reach the summit of Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America.

"St. Bernard is actually the patron saint of mountain climbers," Rauchenstein said. "We have an ice axe in the church dedicated to St. Bernard from one man who successfully summited the mountain."

Rauchenstein credits the parish's volunteer spirit to the work of Sister Louise Tibbets, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who served the church more than 20 years ago.

"She taught us all," Rauchenstein said. "She could see the writing on the wall, and knew we would have to take care of ourselves, but she inspired us to know that we could do this."

"People just started coming forward," Kellard agreed, while attributing part of the community atmosphere to Rauchenstein's leadership. "Once people stepped forward, they enjoyed it and planned their Sundays around (volunteering)!"

## Pittsburgh bishop testifies for Marriage Protection Amendment

**PITTSBURGH (CNS)** — Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh was among those who testified on behalf of Pennsylvania's proposed Marriage Protection Amendment at a hearing April 10 at the Allegheny County Courthouse.

More than 200 people packed the chambers of the Allegheny County Council to hear the often-spirited debate.

"That marriage must be considered truly sacred seems to elude us," Bishop Zubik said. "We have reached the point of a laissez-faire view of marriage, a concerted effort to expand its definition so vaguely that marriage essentially becomes meaningless."

"At a time when we should be engaged in doing all we can to strengthen marriage, and strengthen especially the family, we are facing cultural forces that want to so water down the definition of marriage that it could apply to any human relationship, or to no relationship at all," he said.

The bishop's testimony came before

the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The bill, S.B. 1250, would amend the state constitution to read: "No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the commonwealth."

To date, 27 states have amended their constitutions to protect marriage. Supporters of the Pennsylvania proposal say it is needed to protect marriage between one man and one woman from redefinition or the legalization of "civil unions."

Among the arguments against S.B. 1250 was that it would contradict legislation passed by the city of Pittsburgh that granted domestic partnership rights.

Testifying with the bishop in support of the amendment was Rita Ferko Joyce, general counsel of the diocese. She said the Catholic Church supports the amendment because of the beliefs and traditions that marriage and family are central social institutions that must be supported.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

**MONROE** — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

**HENDERSONVILLE** — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity* of the Secular Franciscan Order meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or e-mail [jnell@dnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

**SPRUCE PINE** — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

**CHARLOTTE** — A *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

**CHARLOTTE** — The *semi-annual rosary rally* will be held Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The rally will include the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Join us as we honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina at (704) 846-7361.

**CHARLOTTE** — "None of us are home until all of us are home!" Sister Mary Scullion, advocate and catalyst for supportive housing, employment, education and health care to chronically homeless and low-income individuals in Philadelphia, will share insight and ideas on how to break the cycle of homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. May 1, 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call (704) 543-7677 or e-mail [jmkienast@stmatthewcatholic.org](mailto:jmkienast@stmatthewcatholic.org).

**CHARLOTTE** — An *Ignation retreat for women* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Saturday, May 3. Consider setting aside some time for quiet reflection and prayer. The theme for this retreat is "To Touch His Cloak," with reflections on hope and healing. There is no charge for the retreat. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.; the retreat will begin at 9 a.m. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, sign up by e-mailing [retreat4women@gmail.com](mailto:retreat4women@gmail.com), or call St. Peter Church at (704) 332-2901.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

**BELMONT** — *First Saturday devotions* take

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope cites Vatican official's 'zeal and passion' to protect family

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, led church efforts to safeguard and promote a Catholic view of marriage and family life with untiring "zeal and passion," Pope Benedict XVI said.

The 72-year-old Colombian cardinal died April 19 at a Rome clinic, where he had been hospitalized since early April with a respiratory infection.

The pope presided over the final commendation and farewell during Cardinal Lopez Trujillo's funeral Mass in St. Peter's Basilica April 23.

"We cannot help but being grateful for the tenacious battle he conducted to defend the truth about familial love and to spread the 'Gospel of the family,'" the pope said, and called Cardinal Lopez Trujillo a "tireless pastor" who generously served the church and "the Gospel of life."

The cardinal, who served as archbishop

of Medellin from 1979 to 1991, had been president of the family council at the Vatican for nearly 18 years.

As president, Cardinal Lopez Trujillo denounced proposals in several countries that would authorize same-sex marriage and adoption by same-sex couples.

He helped local churches oppose legislation to legalize abortion or make it easier to obtain and called promotion of contraceptives a form of "biological colonialism" by drug companies and wealthy nations. He described drug addiction as a modern "form of slavery that oppresses the whole world."

Cardinal Lopez Trujillo was convinced that the family risks destruction and that the church must lead an "evangelical struggle" to defend it.

On several occasions, he praised the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush for its opposition to abortion and its positions on a range of pro-life and family issues.

place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. Beginning April 29, the group will be studying the Gospel of Mark. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — Come for *Coffee Talk* Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the youth room of the Kloster Center, St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. The topic for April 27 and May 4 will be the "Seven Secrets of the Eucharist." For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving and celebration of the feast of *Our Lady of Fatima*. The Mass will take place Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. Father James Ebright will be the homilist. For more information, contact the Te Deum Foundation at (336) 765-1815.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God Room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Obedience of Love and Service*" May 4, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Vatican official: Relics of Padre Pio remind Catholics saints were people

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, Italy (CNS) — Venerating the relics of St. Padre Pio is a reminder that the saints were real men and women who lived for God, said Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Cardinal Saraiva Martins celebrated Mass April 24 at San Giovanni Rotondo before officially unveiling the new, crystal tomb in which Padre Pio has been reburied.

Pilgrims will be able to view the body of the Capuchin friar, who died Sept. 26, 1968.

In his homily, Cardinal Saraiva Martins emphasized two things: the meaning of death and the significance of venerating relics.

"Facing the mystery of death, we are called to understand that that which we see does not sum up everything about human existence," he said. "The body is here, but Padre Pio is not just a body. In fact, he who lived in full union with the crucified Jesus now lives in absolute communion with the risen Jesus."

Venerating the body of Padre Pio, he said, believers are called to remember.

"Looking at his mortal remains, we remember all the good he accomplished in our midst through this body. The relics of those who sleep in the Lord — and of the saints in a special way — invite us to look toward the future. They call us to renew our faith in the resurrection of the flesh."

The Capuchins of San Giovanni Rotondo said the body will be on view at least until September, but perhaps for as long as a year before the crystal will be covered.

Padre Pio's body was exhumed in a service that began late at night March 2 to verify the state of the body and to allow technicians to ensure its long-term preservation.

The friars had said the body was in "fair condition," although the skull and parts of the upper body showed serious signs of decay.

The Capuchins hired Gems Studio, the London-based firm that makes figures for Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, to create a silicone mask — including a short moustache and ample beard — for the body.

## Bishop and president



CNS PHOTO BY JORGE ADORNO, REUTERS

Supporters of Paraguayan presidential candidate retired Catholic Bishop Fernando Lugo Mendez celebrate his victory outside the Pantheon of the Heroes in downtown Asuncion April 20. Bishop Lugo, 58, retired from the Diocese of San Pedro in 2005. The Vatican suspended him from exercising his priestly ministry when he decided to run for president, but rejected his request for laicization after more than 30 years as a bishop and priest. The Paraguayan bishops' conference made no official statement after the elections, but the Paraguayan newspaper ABC quoted Bishop Adalberto Martinez Flores of San Pedro, secretary of the Paraguayan bishops' conference, as saying that the conference "accepts and acknowledges the victory of (Bishop) Lugo as president-elect of Paraguay."

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 26 (5:30 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

April 28 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

April 27 (10 a.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Joseph Church, Eden

April 30 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

## SACRED HEART CEMETERY

- BURIAL RIGHTS NOW AVAILABLE -



Sacred Heart Cemetery, located just 40 miles north of Charlotte in Salisbury, is opening the sale of burial rights to all parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contact Julie Kovalsky for information: 704-637-5186



## Derby daredevils



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Cub Scout Pack 316 of St. Therese Church in Mooresville display their trophies, ribbons and race cars after the first annual Pinewood Derby Race at an area firehouse Feb. 23. Pictured are (from left) Jack Molbreak, first place; Trevor Conklin, second place; and Matthew McCurry, third place.

Pinewood Derby is an annual Cub Scout event during which Scouts, with the help of parents, build their own cars from wood, usually from kits containing a block of pine, plastic wheels and metal axles. The cars are raced on a specially-designed track for competition.

## Helping those in need



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of St. Therese Church in Mooresville present a \$10,000 check from the parish Tithe Committee to Jody Schrandt (right) of the Mooresville Soup Kitchen April 17. The facility is a nondenominational Christian organization that provides meals, fellowship and encouragement to those in need. The donation will be used to help fund the facility's new building.

Pictured (from left): Frank Nash, pastoral council member; Melissa Conklin, pastoral council president; Jesuit Father Vincent Curtin, pastor; and Scott Marks, Tithe Committee chair; and Schrandt.



COURTESY PHOTO

Charlotte Del Vecchio (right) of the USO of North Carolina stands with (from left) Jane Anklin, Mary Ann Frohman and Susan Wallace of the S.W.A.T. team of St. Therese Church in Mooresville April 7. The S.W.A.T. team collected and donated a minivan full of items for U.S. soldiers.

## Church group collects, donates items to U.S. soldiers

MOORESVILLE — The S.W.A.T. team accepted a mission and accomplished it with much success.

The Special Works and Task (S.W.A.T.) team at St. Therese Church in Mooresville recently collected and donated a minivan full of items to the USO of North Carolina.

The USO is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support U.S. troops. The area branch is headquartered in Charlotte.

Donations included hygiene items, race team memorabilia, decks of cards, books, food and paper products.

The project began in February after a presentation by a parishioner, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Kathleen Green, who is now a high school health occupations education teacher.

Green showed S.W.A.T. team members a slide show about the Iraq war and provided a list of things needed by soldiers.

At the next meeting in March, "We decided to follow through with the list," said Mary Ann Frohman, team chairwoman.

Team members contributed many of the items, she said, but to reach their

goal, they sent a list to other parish groups and placed announcements in the parish bulletin.

A room in the church was used to store donated items collected after Masses April 5-6. A USO van came April 8 to pick up the items. The Army Reserve at Fort Bragg near Fayetteville, N.C., plans to take any items the USO cannot use.

S.W.A.T. originated as the Altar Guild and was renamed in 1983.

"Kinship, friendship, laughter and hard work are the hallmarks of our group," said Frohman.

Previous projects to benefit the parish include a rummage sale, Lenten soup lunches, publishing a cookbook, providing meals and gift baskets, and an annual craft bazaar.

Contributing to this story was the Charlotte Observer.

### WANT TO HELP?

While the church is no longer accepting donations, items can be given directly to the USO. Contact Charlotte Del Vecchio of the USO at (704) 359-5581.

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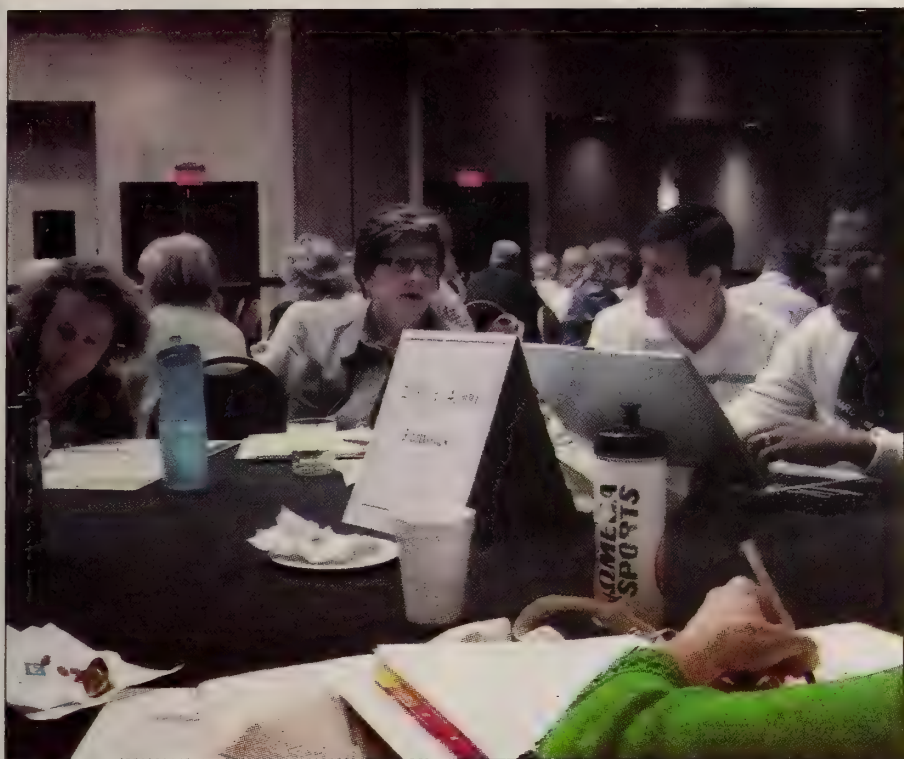


PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Participants from around the Atlanta Province discuss their stewardship experiences during a roundtable discussion at the seventh annual Regional Stewardship Day Conference in Concord April 19.

## Free concert - bring family and friends for this exciting experience! PERPETUAL HOPE GOSPEL CHOIR

appearing Sunday, May 4 — 2:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church  
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(off Hwy 49, across from UNC-C entrance)

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*Thank you, Sister Helene*

Please join us in honoring Sister Helene Nagle as she steps down as principal of St. Ann Catholic School after 17 years of dedicated leadership and service.

*Mass of Celebration* † May 17 † 4:30pm  
St. Ann Catholic School—3635 Park Road, Charlotte

*Celebration Dinner*  
Immediately following at the Monsignor Allen Center

To RSVP and for further information how you can help celebrate Sister Helene's amazing career, contact:  
Shelley Earnhardt at shelley@carolina.rr.com

# Conference explores benefits of sharing God's gifts

GIFTS, from page 1

met to discuss the value of giving one's time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of others and the good of the church.

This was the second year the Diocese of Charlotte has hosted one of the conferences sponsored by the Atlanta Province.

The Atlanta Province is made up of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, along with the dioceses of Savannah, Charleston, Raleigh and Charlotte.

"The importance of stewardship is that it is one very real and concrete way that we respond to the call to be disciples of Jesus," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The goal of the conference was "to educate parishioners and help them better promote stewardship as a way of life," she said.

"Jesus has already shown us that the greatest purpose in life is to give ourselves away, to share our abundance," said Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, in his opening remarks at the conference.

"All that we are, all that we have is a gift — a gift to be shared in love," he said.

"The focus of the development office is to be a resource to parishes in a number of different areas," said Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte and board president of the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

"In the area of stewardship, we want to help parishes do a more effective job of spreading stewardship as a way of life among their parishioners," he said.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference was Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, who spoke on the topic, "The Heart of Stewardship."

Members of stewardship committees and pastoral councils, along with priests, deacons and other lay volunteers from throughout the Atlanta Province, attended the event.

More than 360 people attended this year's stewardship conference, making it the largest regional stewardship day in the country, according to the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Development.

The conference included six breakout sessions on topics such as infusing stewardship into the life of the parish; blending multiple cultures in the parish; and forming, strengthening and sustaining parish stewardship committees.

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, spoke about the vibrant ministry of stewardship at his parish in his presentation entitled, "Putting it all Together: Bringing the Principles of Stewardship into all Aspects of Parish Life."

"The great success we have had with stewardship flows from a profound appreciation of God's blessings," said Msgr. Marcaccio, who credits the achievements of his parish to the integration of stewardship in all aspects of their community.

According to the diocesan Office of Development, the benefits of stewardship often show up in numerous aspects of parish life.

For example, one parish found that five years after implementing stewardship in its community, the parish offertory nearly doubled, the number of volunteers ministering in the parish increased by more than 300 percent and weekday Mass attendance was up 200 percent.

"These are the kinds of fruits that most parishes find after they have been promoting stewardship annually over about a five-year period," said Gaddy.

Roundtable discussions provided an opportunity for stewards from around the region to network and share ideas.

"The part of the conference that I found most helpful was getting together with other stewards from other parishes and finding out what they're doing," said Jennifer Shinn, volunteer ministry coordinator at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

What the conference does every year "is provide a new excitement and a new energy for stewardship committees and people on pastoral councils," said Gaddy.

The conference concluded with Mass concelebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Boland.

"Stewardship is an important concept for our spiritual growth as Catholics, both as individuals and as parishes," said Bishop Jugis in a letter to stewards who attended the conference.

"In a spiritual sense and temporal sense, adopting stewardship as a way of life changes people and changes the life of the parish as a whole," he said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on stewardship, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/stewardship.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/stewardship.html).



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CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Cardinal Edward M. Egan welcomes Pope Benedict XVI to St. Patrick's Cathedral for the celebration of Mass April 19 in New York.

## Illuminating the 'splendor of the church'

*Pope urges U.S. church to 'put aside all anger' and unite*

BY JOHN THAAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Pope Benedict XVI urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose."

The pope, celebrating Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19 with bishops, priests, religious and seminarians, once again addressed the damage and suffering caused by the clerical sex abuse scandal and called for a time of purification and healing.

More generally, he said it was time to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society.

The pope was celebrating the third anniversary of his election, and he arrived to congratulations from New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan and an ovation from the 3,000 people who packed the cathedral. Many of them held aloft cameras or even stood on pews for a glimpse of the pontiff.

"We are greatly honored that you begin your fourth year as universal shepherd here with us," the cardinal said.

The setting was New York's 130-year-old Gothic cathedral, built with "the pennies of the poor," as Cardinal Egan said. In his homily, the pope used the building's architectural harmony as a metaphor for the church's inner unity.

Just as the cathedral's stained-glass windows flood the interior with splendor, he said, the beauty of life in the church can really only be understood and experienced from the inside.

Yet sometimes "the light of faith can be dimmed by routine, and the splendor of the church obscured by the sins and weaknesses of her members," he said.

"For all of us, I think, one of the great disappointments which followed

the Second Vatican Council, with its call for a greater engagement in the church's mission to the world, has been the experience of division between different groups, different generations, different members of the same religious family," he said.

The pope said it was important for all in the church to open themselves to points of view that "may not necessarily conform to our own ideas or assumptions."

This is the way to hear what the Spirit is saying, he said.

The pope said all those in the

cathedral were "called to be forces of unity within Christ's body." A first step, he said, is to seek inner reconciliation through penance.

He noted that he had already spoken several times during his U.S. trip about the suffering caused by priestly sex abuse. Today, he said, he wanted to assure the priests and religious of his spiritual closeness as they respond to the continuing challenges of the scandal.

"I join you in praying that this will be a time of purification for each and every particular church and religious community, and a time for healing. I also encourage you to cooperate with your bishops, who continue to work effectively

to resolve this issue," he said.

The pope said the church must be a "beacon of hope" in today's world, and that means promoting a culture of life.

"The proclamation of life, life in abundance, must be the heart of the new evangelization," he said.

"This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people's hearts," he said.

The church, he said, must work in a society that "sometimes seems to have forgotten God and to resent even the most elementary demands of Christian morality." At the same time, the church's leaders and its pastors should also make it clear to people that the faith is more than a set of rules, he said.

"Perhaps we have lost sight of this: In a society where the church seems legalistic and 'institutional' to many people, our most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God's love," he said.

The pontiff pointed to the late Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, as a model of pastoral vision and zeal. His sainthood cause recently took a step forward at the Vatican.

Many of those in the cathedral said just seeing the pope inspired them.

"Watching him coming into the church -- his peace, serenity, the way he greets people, his whole manner of being -- says he is a man of God," said Sister Ann Kuhn, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Fla.

Sister Kathrine Marie, a Sister of Life of New York, said the pope's presence was even more powerful than his words.

"What he does makes you want to be faithful," she said, "so that same light shines forth in you, as it does in him."

Contributing to this story was Carol Zimmermann.

## Pope departs on 'Shepherd One'

DEPART, from page 1

M. Egan of New York; Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the U.S.; and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, whose diocese includes the airport.

Also in attendance were New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne.

"It has been a memorable week, and Pope Benedict XVI has stepped into the history of our country in a special way," Cheney said.

"You've encountered a nation facing many challenges, but with more blessings than any of us could number," he said. "You have seen a country where the torch of freedom, equality and tolerance will always be held high, a country where you — a herald of the Gospel of Jesus Christ — will always be welcome."

After pointing out that the pope was ordained a priest almost 57 years ago, Cheney said, "You might have found it hard to imagine then that you would stand before all humanity as a teacher, a statesman and a shepherd of more than a billion souls. That is what God has called you to do."

The pope said that one of the high points of his six-day trip to Washington and New York was visiting the United Nations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document he discussed in his April 18 address to the General Assembly.

He also specifically mentioned his April 20 prayer at ground zero, saying it "will remain firmly etched in my memory."

A three-hour program of music and prayer reflecting the diverse ethnic makeup of the Brooklyn Diocese preceded the papal entourage's arrival around 8 p.m.

Participants recited the rosary in English, Polish, Italian, Tagalog and

Korean. Attendees were encouraged to come in colorful costumes. Embroidered Guatemalan blouses and striped Polish circle skirts mixed with military uniforms and the elegant capes and feathered hats of the Knights of Columbus.

"It's great to have the opportunity to come see him," said Linda Amasiani, 42, of the Brooklyn Diocese's Nigerian Apostolate. "He's reaching all religious groups and ethnicities."

Four elementary-school-age children whose families are from Ecuador, Germany, Trinidad and Korea presented Pope Benedict with a replica of a stained-glass window from the Cathedral Basilica of St. James in Brooklyn.

"He ended by saying 'God bless America,' and that was just a beautiful moment at that point. In those words he expressed everything he felt for America and for the American people," said Auxiliary Bishop Dominick J. Lagonegro of New York.

The pope departed on the Alitalia Boeing 777 dubbed "Shepherd One," and landed at Rome's Ciampino airport around 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT) April 21.



# 'Justice will bring about peace'

*Pope, at U.N., says no government or religion should limit human rights*

BY CINDY WOODEN AND  
BENEDICTA CIPOLLA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

UNITED NATIONS — Neither government nor religion has a right to change or limit human rights, because those rights flow from the dignity of each person created in God's image, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his April 18 speech to the U.N. General Assembly, the pope insisted that human rights cannot be limited or rewritten on the basis of national interests or majority rule.

But he also said the role of religions is not to dictate government policy, but to help their members strive to find the truth, including the truth about the dignity of all people even if their religious views are different.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the pope and met privately with him before the pope addressed the General Assembly.

In his public welcoming remarks, the U.N. leader said, "The United Nations is a secular institution, composed of 192 states. We have six official languages but no official religion. We do not have a chapel — though we do have a meditation room."

"But if you ask those of us who work for the United Nations what motivates us, many of us reply in a language of faith," he said. "We see what we do not only as a job, but as a mission. Indeed, mission is the word we use most often for our work around the world — from peace and security to development to human rights. Your Holiness, in so many ways, our mission unites us with yours."

The pope acknowledged that common ground not only in his speech, but also in a brief homage to U.N. staff

members and peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Before leaving U.N. headquarters, he stopped before the war-scarred U.N. flag that had flown outside the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003.

Placed above the words "Fallen in the cause of peace," the flag has become a memorial, particularly to Sergio Vieira de Mello, the U.N. envoy to Iraq who was killed in Baghdad in August 2003.

Before addressing the General Assembly, the pope signed a visitor's book, writing in Latin: "Erit opus iustitiae pax (Is. 32:17) 18.IV.2008 Benedictus XVI." The Latin quote from the Book of Isaiah is translated in the New American Bible as "Justice will bring about peace."

In his address to the General Assembly, the German-born Pope Benedict said he came to the United Nations as a sign of his esteem for the organization, founded after the devastation of World War II when several governments ignored the fact that human beings were created by God and that the basic principles of right and wrong are written in the heart of each person.

"In consequence," he said, "freedom and human dignity were grossly violated."

The pope, always a strong supporter of the United Nations and its efforts to avoid conflicts and end wars, insisted that when one country has a problem with another, it must not act unilaterally, but seek the assistance of the United Nations.

"This is all the more necessary at a time when we experience the obvious paradox of a multilateral consensus that continues to be in crisis because it is still subordinated to the decisions of a few, whereas the world's problems call for



CNS PHOTO BY BRENDAN McDERMID, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI addresses the United Nations General Assembly at the U.N. headquarters in New York April 18.

interventions in the form of collective action by the international community," he said.

As expected, Pope Benedict paid tribute to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted 60 years ago.

The pope said the document — proclaiming the equality of all people, the basic right to life and to freedom, liberty of conscience and the free practice of religion — was the result of "a convergence of different religious and cultural traditions."

The traditions, he said, were determined to ensure that concern for and protection of the human person was the center of attention in the workings of societies, governments and institutions.

"The rights recognized and expounded in the declaration apply to everyone by virtue of the common origin of the person, who remains the high point of God's creative design for the world and for history," the pope said.

"They are based on the natural law inscribed on human hearts and present in different cultures and civilizations," he said.

Pope Benedict said an attempt to deny that human rights have a foundation in the way God created human beings and that they are common to all people creates a real risk that they will be limited "in the name of different cultural, political, social and even religious outlooks."

The pope said it is essential that people and governments recognize they are not the creators of human rights and they cannot limit them.

Religious freedom is an essential human right, he said, and when exercised as a search for truth, religion can promote a broader recognition of human rights.

"A vision of life firmly anchored in the religious dimension can help to achieve this since recognition of the transcendent value of every man and woman favors conversion of heart, which then leads to a commitment to resist violence, terrorism and war and to promote justice and peace," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said interreligious dialogue contributes to global peace and the defense of human rights when it brings believers together in their search for truth.

The task of religions, he said, "is to propose a vision of faith not in terms of intolerance, discrimination and conflict, but in terms of complete respect for truth, coexistence, rights and reconciliation."

While religions have an obligation to promote recognition of human rights, they also must defend the rights of their members to bring the values of their faith to bear on the decisions they make as citizens.

"It is inconceivable, then, that believers should have to suppress a part of themselves — their faith — in order to be active citizens," he said. "It should never be necessary to deny God in order to enjoy one's rights."

The pope asked the United Nations and the world's governments to make special efforts to defend religious freedom in societies where extreme secularism tends to push believers out of the public sphere and where one religion has been adopted as the national religion and other believers suffer discrimination or oppression.

The pope also told the United Nations that upholding all human rights for all residents of a country is a measure of that country's progress in working for the common good.

In addition, he said, "the promotion of human rights remains the most effective strategy for eliminating inequalities between countries and social groups and for increasing security."

When dignity is attacked and when people live in hardship and despair, he said, they become "easy prey to the call to violence."

After speaking to the General Assembly, the pope met privately with its president and the president of the Security Council. Then he returned to the General Assembly hall, where he addressed members of the U.N. staff.

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# Pope preaches message of hope built

POPE, from page 1

urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose."

It is time, he said, to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society.

Repeatedly during his April 15-20 stay in Washington and New York, he made it clear that he believed the "genuinely religious spirit" of the American people had not been extinguished and could be strengthened.

Tailoring his message to each group he met, Pope Benedict urged the people of the United States to resist the temptations and trends of modern society, maintaining their traditional values, defending human rights and reaching out with solidarity.

The Vatican billed the trip as a visit to the United Nations — particularly to help mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — and as a pastoral visit to the United States.

Pope Benedict spent three hours April 18 at the United Nations, addressing the General Assembly and U.N. staffers separately and holding private meetings with the organization's top officials.

He told the General Assembly that fundamental human rights "cannot be applied piecemeal" and cannot be denied or diminished because of "different cultural, political, social and even religious outlooks."

And, he said, when human rights are violated it creates a breeding ground for violence.

"Indeed, the victims of hardship and despair, whose human dignity is violated with impunity, become easy prey to the call to violence, and they can then become violators of peace," he said.

Hours before he left April 20, Pope Benedict celebrated an afternoon Mass in New York's Yankee Stadium.

"In this land of religious liberty," he said, "Catholics found freedom not only to practice their faith, but also to participate fully in civic life, bringing their deepest moral convictions to the public square and cooperating with

their neighbors in shaping a vibrant, democratic society."

He urged U.S. Catholics "to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom in order to build a future of hope for coming generations."

"Throughout his entire pastoral visit, it was evident that the Holy Father has a great love for the Catholics of the United States, and that we have a great love for him," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte.

"Jesus told St. Peter, 'Feed my sheep,' and that is exactly what the Holy Father did for us — he nourished us with the love and the truth of Christ," said Bishop Jugis.

## Meaning, freedom through Christ

Bishop Jugis was among the U.S. bishops to meet with Pope Benedict in Washington April 16. The pope told them secularism and materialism can influence the way people live out their faith, causing those who worship on Sundays to act contrary to church teaching the rest of the week.

Some people think they can pick and choose what they believe, the pope said.

"We've seen this emerge in an acute way in the scandal given by Catholics who promote an alleged right to abortion," he said.

While Pope Benedict carefully avoided appearances of taking sides in a U.S. election year, in his April 16 speech at the White House, he said it was important to preserve the traditional role of religion in American political and social life.

Religious values helped forge "the soul of the nation" and should continue to inspire Americans as they face complex political and ethical issues today, he said.

"Democracy can flourish, as your Founding Fathers realized, only when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation," Pope Benedict said before holding a private meeting with President George W. Bush.

The visit to the White House was the first official event on his calendar, and it coincided with his 81st birthday, when he heard dozens of versions of "Happy Birthday" sung in his honor.

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor



Pope Benedict XVI prays at Ground Zero in New York April 20. The pope spoke with family members of some of the first responders to the disaster.

of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, attended the welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

"President Bush in his address stated, 'people usually spend their birthday with friends.' When he said that, I was struck by that which I already knew — despite all our shortcomings, the universal church has a huge friend in the Catholic Church in America," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

"Regardless of the relativism and materialism of our culture, there is tremendous good will among people of faith in America," he said. "The Holy Father's visit seems to have brought this sentiment of communion out of

people this week."

Also during the trip, the Pope celebrated the third anniversary of his April 19, 2005, election.

That evening, at a boisterous rally with some 25,000 young people on the grounds of the New York archdiocesan seminary in Yonkers, Pope Benedict not only fueled the youths' enthusiasm, he warned them of the dangers of thinking freedom could be divorced from responsibilities and from the truth about God and human beings.

Pope Benedict offered a personal reflection on his own youth in Germany, which he said was "marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the

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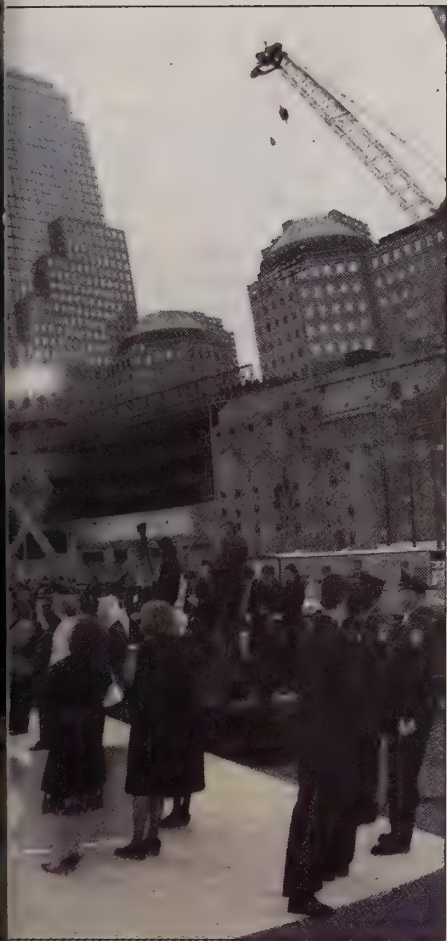
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PAPAL VISIT TO USA

faith



CNS PHOTO BY ETTORE FERRARI, REUTERS

retreat into individualism” is seen in Christian denominations just as it is in the world at large.

The Christian faith is not a matter of picking and choosing what to believe and what to discard from the Scriptures and Christian tradition, he said.

Walking away from tradition has split denominations and makes it increasingly difficult for Christians to give a united witness to a world in search of meaning, the pope stated.

**Upholding moral categories**

Celebrating Mass April 17 at brand-new Nationals Park in Washington, the pope urged U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy at a time when U.S. society is at a moral crossroads.

He warned of “signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society” and said people need the church’s message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

“The world needs this witness. Who can deny that the present moment is a crossroads, not only for the church in America but also for society as a whole?” he asked.

Brett Keeter, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, attended the papal Mass.

“I was very impressed by his knowledge of our country’s history and the respect he has for the unique role the United States has played as a defender of individual liberties throughout the years,” said Keeter. “However, he challenged everyone to remember that true freedom is found only in atotal surrender to Christ — not through materialism or many of the so-called ‘freedoms’ we think of today.”

Meeting with Catholic educators that evening, the pope said the Catholic identity of a school or university cannot be equated simply with the orthodoxy of course content, but is broader and means ensuring “that each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberate within the ecclesial life of faith.”

A primary role of the church and, therefore, of church educational institutions is “upholding the essential moral categories of right and wrong.”

Without that moral guidance, he said, “hope could only wither, giving way to cold pragmatic calculations of utility that render the person little more than a pawn



COURTESY PHOTO

Third- and fourth-graders in the school library at St. Matthew School in Charlotte watch television as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., April 17.

on some ideological chess board.”

The need to uphold traditional moral values and to stress the fact that truth is not determined by individual preference or majority vote was not a message reserved for U.S. Catholics.

Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, in Belmont, N.C., was in the second row during the meeting with educators.

“You could feel the Holy Spirit in the room. At that moment, everyone in the room was on board with what he was saying,” Thierfelder said.

“It was so powerful and so good, you almost can’t process it at the moment you hear it,” he said.

**Building bridges**

Meeting about 200 representatives of Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism in Washington April 17, he encouraged all people of faith “to persevere in their collaboration” to serve society and enrich public life.

The pope said it was not enough for religious leaders to get together to find ways to ensure that their people get along with each other.

“The broader purpose of dialogue is

to discover the truth,” he said.

“By bearing witness to those moral truths which they hold in common with all men and women of good will, religious groups will exert a positive influence on the wider culture and inspire neighbors, co-workers and fellow citizens to join in the task of strengthening the ties of solidarity,” the pope said.

The pope met separately April 17 with the Jewish participants in the interreligious meeting to offer his best wishes for their upcoming celebration of Passover. The next afternoon he visited Park East Synagogue in New York.

There, the pope said he felt especially close to Jews on the eve of Passover as they “prepare to celebrate the great deeds of the Almighty and to sing the praises of him who has worked such wonders for his people.”

He was welcomed at the synagogue by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 78, an Austrian-born Holocaust survivor, who called his historic visit “a reaffirmation of your outreach, good will and commitment to enhancing Jewish-Catholic relations.”

“As pope, one of his titles is ‘pontifex maximus’ — rendered from Latin as ‘bridge builder.’ I think his visit is building bridges among Catholics; among Christians and people of faith,” said Msgr. Marcaccio.

“The Holy Father’s meetings — not just the huge gatherings but those with political leaders, educational and faith leaders, and victims of abuse — are evidence of his desire and ability to build those bridges,” he said.

Msgr. Marcaccio recalled seeing the pope bless and kiss a baby in the crowd.

“In that sentimental snapshot, I saw him as St. Peter’s successor, the symbolic bridge from the apostolic age to the generation yet to be,” he said.

*Contributing to this story were Editor Kevin E. Murray and Staff Writer Katie Moore; also Carol Zimmermann and John Thavis in New York and Washington; Beth Griffin, Benedicta Cipolla and Angelo Stagnaro in New York; and Mark Pattison, Nancy O’Brien, Patricia Zapor, Julie Asher and Regina Linksey in Washington.*


of the 2001 terrorist attacks and with those who

answers.” Nazism “banished God and thus became impervious to anything true and good,” he said.

When freedom disregards absolute truth, relegating it instead to the private sphere of the individual, relativism takes hold, he said.

Truth is neither an imposition nor a simple set of rules, Pope Benedict said. “Ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ.”

The pope also spoke about the dangers of individualism April 18 when he presided over an ecumenical prayer service. He said he was concerned that in a world marked by a greater sense of global unity and interdependence, the feeling of “fragmentation and a



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book helps Romanian Christians mark anniversary of communist takeover

BY VICTOR GAETAN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BUCHAREST, Romania — Christians in Romania are marking the 60th anniversary of the country's communist takeover with resolve and a book commemorating their persecution.

"Sixty years ago, by law, the communists tried to destroy the church," recalled Archbishop Ioan Robu of Bucharest. "They confiscated our property, jailed our priests, closed our seminaries and schools, shuttered our printing operations, threatened to arrest — then expelled — the Holy See representative to Romania, and instituted an atheist ideology.

"Instead of burying us, the church is thriving today, but we remind ourselves constantly about what we lost," the archbishop said in the book's introduction.

As part of a commitment to remember the communists' suppression of religion starting in 1948, several Romanian Christian churches produced "The Martyrs of Christ in Romania Under the Communist Regime," on sale for the past 10 months.

The 812-page book is a joint project of the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Latin-rite Catholic Church and evangelical churches. It was financed by the Catholic St. Gerhard Foundation in Stuttgart, Germany.

Leaders of the Romanian Catholic Church, an Eastern rite, decided to continue research and postponed the inclusion of their martyrs until the publication of the next volume of the book.

The work includes the biographies of 135 of the thousands of Christians who gave their lives for their faith under the communist regime in Romania.

The first post-communist attempt to catalogue the bravery of Christian leaders in Romania, the book is the result of four years of research in Romanian and foreign archives. The research team included representatives from the various Christian churches.

Father Helmut Moll, a German historian, developed the criteria for martyrdom based on the Bible and

Christian liturgical tradition.

The requirements were that the Christian had experienced a violent death, that persecutors were motivated by hatred of religion and Christianity, and that the martyrs accepted death as God's will.

Romanian martyrs — including bishops, priests, monks, nuns and laypeople — were executed, hanged, frozen, stabbed, buried alive, starved of food and water, and tortured in jails.

The martyrs died while captured or soon after being released from detention.

Archbishop Robu wrote in the preface to the book, "The acceptance of Christ, even with the price of one's life, has become a common legacy of Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants, and the documentation presented here proposed that we maintain this common heritage."

The issue of Christian martyrdom under communism has been especially contentious in Romania since the 2006 release of a report by the Presidential Commission for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania, known as the Tismaneanu Commission.

Commission President Vladimir Tismaneanu has come under attack for anti-Christian bias and for having an activist communist background.

The commission's report presents the Orthodox Church as a pillar of the secret police and the Communist Party. It ignores the murder of thousands of Christian clerics and believers under communism, the confiscation of church property and the destruction of churches.

In response to the Tismaneanu report, Latin- and Eastern-rite bishops have prepared summaries of the persecution of the Catholic Church under communism. This includes murder, ongoing harassment and the intimidation of Catholics as well as the destruction of churches.

The summaries will be compiled as a "report of the faithful" to cover the "unscientific, biased" gaps in the Tismaneanu report, said a priest familiar with the working draft.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 4, 2007

May 4, The Ascension of the Lord.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23  
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

## We must take on greater roles for God

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The 50 days of the Easter season allow us to appreciate, ponder and savor the reality of Jesus' resurrection.

Easter is truly the turning point of human history. Thinking about the meaning of God having power over all things, even death, is worthy of our full attention. This time also prepares us for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and this week's preparation is very specific.

Just before his Ascension into heaven, Jesus tells his disciples that they "will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon" them, and they "will be [his] witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Ephesians passage gives more definition to just what they will be proclaiming when Paul writes of "the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion: ..."

Taking on this view of the world

changed Jesus' disciples from their indecisive ways into men who traveled to the far corners of the world to tell others that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

But first they had to wait for the Holy Spirit and then be obedient to Jesus' command to proclaim this good news, that he had conquered death, and his Father had proclaimed him Lord.

When I first came to my adult faith three decades back, I experienced a profound reorientation of my life. Instructions in the Catholic faith, a Life in the Spirit Seminar, then service on my parish liturgy committee and in the pro-life movement, displaced the regular companionship of my unbelieving young adult friends.

New friendships with Christians and new activities filled my time and became my passion.

I still have those old friendships, but they ceased being my primary relationships, the ones that formed my values and view of the world, as my life became reoriented around the truth of the Resurrection.

It's been 34 years since what were for me pivotal times, the times of my own personal Pentecost. I have no regrets. Preparing for the coming of the Spirit is worthy of our best efforts.

### Questions:

What can you do to prepare for God to take a greater role in your life? Are there Bible studies, retreats, or service projects in your parish or diocese that would help you turn your life toward God?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27-MAY 3

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; Monday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort), Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; Tuesday (St. Catherine of Siena), Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-1; Wednesday (St. Pius V), Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; Thursday (Ascension of the Lord), Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20; Friday (St. Athanasius), Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; Saturday (Sts. Philip and James), 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 4-10

Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; Monday, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; Tuesday, Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; Wednesday, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; Thursday, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; Friday, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; Saturday (Bl. Damien de Veuster), Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD



# Catholic students at Virginia Tech record CD for hope, healing

BY PAULINE HOVEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BLACKSBURG, Va. — By noon on April 16, 2007, Bryan Schamus, a member of the Newman Community at Virginia Tech, knew that at least 22 people had been killed on campus.

He quickly gathered with other student leaders of the university's Catholic campus ministry to figure out how to respond to the tragedy, which would later become known as the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. By the end of the day, 33 students and faculty, including the gunman, had died.

A Mass of healing at the Newman Center that evening "was jam-packed with maybe close to 200 people," Schamus recalled.

People of all faiths had gathered for mutual support, consolation and comfort. What participants found were uplifting, youthful voices singing about hope and love overcoming fear.

For Schamus, and all those involved in the project, the past year has been a journey of transformation culminating in the creation of a CD of those songs to be released April 16 in memory of the lives lost at Virginia Tech.

Called "Voices of Hope," the

CD is a message of hope, faith and transformation.

"Instead of being victims, we're witnesses of the real power of God that helps us to stand up, to walk and to live," said Schamus, now a senior and director of the CD. "If there's any community in the world that needs to be at the cross right now, it's us."

Father John Grace, Virginia Tech's Catholic campus minister, couldn't agree more. "When I got here, I heard a lot of stories about what happened and the response of the Catholic community to that violence," said Father Grace, whom the Richmond Diocese assigned to the campus shortly after the tragedy.

"Over and over I heard from people their appreciation of the ability to gather together at Newman, and the meaningfulness and comfort people drew from the music at that gathering," he said.

Since the tragedy occurred in the midst of the Easter season, students chose appropriate songs that communicated love, hope and comfort.

"Given what they were facing, it was very, very powerful," Father Grace said. "And as I listened to the songs, it struck me that this is an important piece



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE, REUTERS

Virginia Tech University students listen to the names of the 32 killed last year during a candlelight vigil for the victims of the April 16, 2007 shootings on the campus in Blacksburg, Va., April 16. A CD was released the same day in memory of the lives lost.

of their journey, and I thought it would be significant for other people too."

Two professional songwriters aided in the effort. One evening, Schamus sent an e-mail to songwriter David Kauffman, telling him they were singing his contemporary arrangement of Psalm 46, called "Be Still," every night, and what an impact it was having.

Kauffman, publisher of Good for the Soul Music, immediately sent 100 CDs to Schamus and asked if he could travel from his home in San Antonio to lead them in a night of prayer and song.

Then David Haas, a well-known writer of Catholic hymns, who wrote three of the songs selected for the CD, came to Virginia Tech to perform a one-night concert.

When Schamus asked if he could record their music, the songwriters supported him 100 percent.

"The response was unbelievable," he said. "All three publishers (GIA publications, OCP and Good for the Soul Music) of the 10 songs we recorded gave us royalties free, and they did it quickly and willingly and were excited to be a part of it."

In reliving the experience, Schamus himself had to come to terms with the tragedy.

"What I look at now is how we've

all been given free will, we all make decisions," Schamus said. "The 'God moment' comes afterward when people rush in to help and to save others. For instance, I thought about what causes a rescue squad to keep pushing against a chained door to get through when they know there's someone with a gun on the other side?"

"And for us as a music ministry and as a Catholic group, we had free will in how we wanted to respond to this tragedy," said Schamus, who plans to pursue a graduate degree in pastoral ministries.

"We decided the answer is not to pretend it never happened but to take it head on," he said.

Even freshmen like Marie Volger, who was not yet a student at Virginia Tech at the time of the shootings, have experienced the impact.

"There's such a strong purpose in this CD, and the idea that no pit is so deep that God is not deeper still is very appropriate," said Volger, who plays piano on the CD and is a parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Winchester.

"There's been a deep sense of healing. The end result for me is an affirmation of the sense of community here," she said.



**Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of May:**

Rev. Ramon Berg	2003
Rev. Henri Blanc	1972
Rev. Edmund Kirsch	2001
Rev. Francis J. McCourt	1982
Rev. William McShea	1973
Rev. James E. Noonan	1992
Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe	1994
Rev. Edward C. Smith	1983
Rev. James A. Stuber	1985

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## Traveling icon now in Charlotte



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOE ORDOYNE

Vince Lombardo, Knights of Columbus district 13 deputy, presents an icon of Our Lady of Charity to Grand Knight Richard White and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Desch of Knights of Columbus Council 10852 at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis April 5.

### Our Lady of Charity blessed by Pope Benedict XVI

CHARLOTTE — An icon of Our Lady of Charity is now on display at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI, the icon had been on display at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis since February.

During a ceremony at the church April 5, Knights of Columbus Council 12167 presented the icon to Council 10852 of St. Matthew Church.

The framed print is one of three icons currently traveling throughout North Carolina as part of a yearlong Marian Hour of Prayer program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

"This Marian prayer program with an image of Our Lady of Charity is a graced opportunity to reflect on the virtue of charity and to make more widely known the beautiful teaching of 'Deus Caritas Est' ('God is Love'), in which Pope Benedict XVI explores the true nature of charity, based on love of God and love

of neighbor," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a letter to fellow Knights.

The icon first arrived at St. Joseph Church Feb. 18 and has been part of numerous prayer services and visited by thousands of people.

Typically, each council hosts the icon for a couple of weeks before passing it on to the next parish. The icon's stay at St. Joseph Church was longer than usual because of Lent.

"St. Joseph of Kannapolis was honored to be the first parish in North Carolina to host this magnificent icon on its great journey throughout the United States and the world," said Joe Ordoyne of Council 12167.

At the conclusion of the yearlong prayer program, a report on the total number of prayer services that were held and the approximate number of participants will be presented to Pope Benedict.

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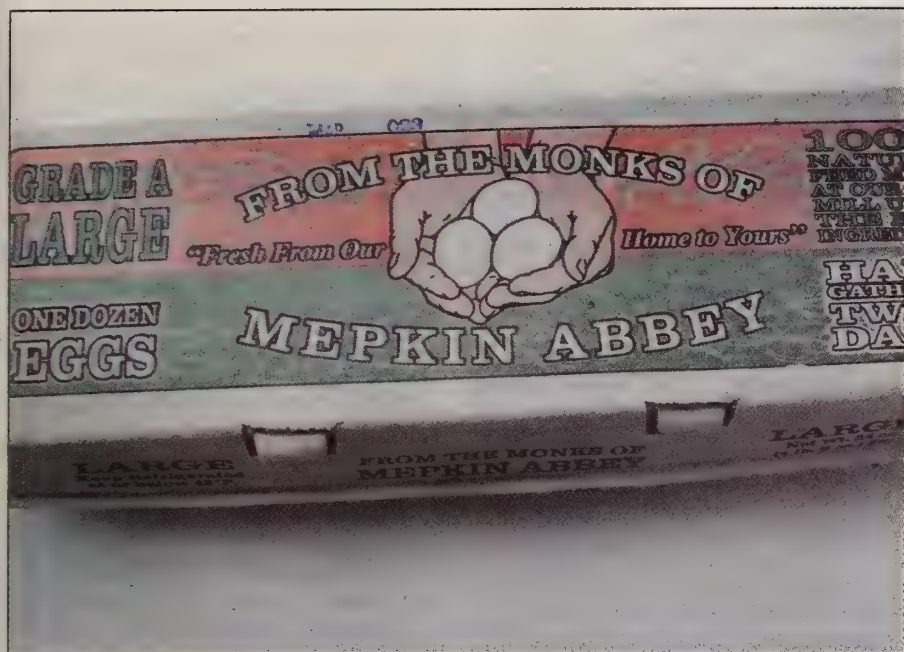
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## FROM THE COVER

## S.C. monks seek new support for abbey

MONKS, from page 1



CNS PHOTO BY DEIRDRE C. MAYS, CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

The Trappist monks at Our Lady of Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina are discontinuing egg production and searching for a new way to support themselves. They stopped selling eggs after the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals criticized the monks' treatment of chickens.

could continue to make a living.

Suggestions range from growing agricultural products as diverse as bamboo, mushrooms, heirloom corn and wheat, organic vegetables, and beets to be used as an organic road de-icer to pursuing such nonagricultural ideas as licensing beer; book scanning (the process of converting physical books into electronic books) and establishing a public cemetery on the Mepkin property.

The abbey announced in December that it would begin phasing out its 56-year-old egg business, citing pressure from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals over the treatment of chickens as one of the reasons.

Public protests and a threatened boycott by PETA that started in the summer of 2007 put unwanted pressure on the Trappist monks and interfered with their quiet life of prayer and work.

The end of the egg business meant the abbey had to find a new way to support itself. Sales averaging 9 million eggs a year have generated around \$140,000, which is about 60 percent of the abbey's annual income, according to Abbot Stan Gumula.

Abbot Gumula said he was impressed with suggestions the panel generated.

"We hope to find a business that will respect the monastic tradition of working on the land and caring for the environment, and the advisory panel's ideas certainly meet these criteria," he said. "Our land is a wonderful resource, and ... the panel has come up with great ways for us to use it creatively and wisely."

Members of the panel agreed there should be an effort to find new products that can be sold locally so the monastery can maintain its strong connection with neighbors.

Mepkin's eggs have been available in Piggly Wiggly grocery stores for years. Since the abbey's establishment in 1949, the monks also have sold bread, flowers, timber, milk and beef cattle to support their way of life.

"The abbey has a lot of challenges, including an aging workforce and not a lot of working capital to fund a new operation. The abbey is a wonderful resource and it's a shame they're having to face this," said panel member Dennis Atwood, retired chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charleston.

Atwood said he thought the public cemetery idea was a good one. "There's obviously got to be a future demand for that kind of service and a lot of people are going to want traditional burials."

Msgr. James Carter, pastor of Christ Our King Church in Mount Pleasant, said any agricultural venture would need to take into account Mepkin's aging monks and existing resources.

The abbey also needs to consider how to maximize revenue that can be drawn from existing assets, according to Robert Macdonald, a retired museum director from New York who has been a close friend and consultant for the abbey for many years. He said the panel suggested the abbey increase the use of its conference center by businesses and other groups and look into increasing its retreat program.

Other suggestions included expanding the sale of existing abbey products such as fruitcakes and Drizzle, a syrup that can be used over desserts, meats and other dishes.

"The reality is that the abbey will probably be unable to make up the shortfall from the loss of the egg business solely through labor-intensive agricultural ventures," he said.

"The solutions to this situation will be varied. It's going to be a combination of saving money, finding new sources of revenue and increasing the income stream from current resources the abbey already has," he said.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Facing up to the abuse crisis

*People of faith must help reform society, says pope*

Sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll.

In some media accounts last week, Pope Benedict XVI blamed clergy sexual abuse of minors on the influence of those three all-American vices.

That's an easy — albeit incomplete — answer to the church's scandalous crisis. Neither is it exactly what the pope had in mind when he mentioned the breakdown of society contributing to the tragic molestation of thousands of minors by clergy.

That Pope Benedict's American apostolic journey would address the crisis which has consumed much of the church's energy over the past five-plus years was widely speculated.

Some expected a pro forma apology for the church's role in the abuse and its aftermath. Others feared he might shy away from the topic.

Rather, Pope Benedict faced it head-on, raising the issue with reporters during his flight to the U.S., in his address to the U.S. bishops and again during the open-air Mass in Washington.

At each venue, he called the abuse shameful.

And on April 17 the pope talked with and prayed with several victims of clergy sexual abuse from Boston, center of the current scandal. That event wasn't on the pope's official schedule, though many had both anticipated and hoped for it.

One victim said the symbolism was a step in the right direction. Still others said it was long overdue.

Pro-forma apology for the horror of the abuse? Hardly. Shy away from a face to face with victims? No way.

During his April 16 meeting with bishops, Pope Benedict acknowledged the assessment of Cardinal Francis George of Chicago that some bishops "badly handled" offending clergy and the aftermath.

Clergy who have "betrayed their priestly obligations and duties by such gravely immoral behavior" brought pain to the victims and to the church, Pope Benedict told the bishops.

"As you strive to eliminate this evil, ... you may be assured of the prayerful support of God's people throughout the world. ... It is your God-given responsibility as pastors to bind up the wounds caused by every breach of trust, to foster healing, to promote reconciliation and to reach out with loving concern to those so seriously wronged," he added.

Despite its missteps, the pope approved of the U.S. church's response, beginning in Dallas in 2002, to identify and discipline offending clergy, create

### Guest Column

TOM  
SHERIDAN  
GUEST COLUMNIST

safe environments for children, raise awareness of abuse in society and to foster healing of individuals and families shattered by abuse.

Not everyone was pleased, however. Some victims' groups picketed the pope's route demanding censure for bishops who they said were unresponsive to the crisis.

At the April 17 Mass at Nationals Park, 45,000 people heard the pope again acknowledge the pain of the abuse scandal.

"No words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse," Pope Benedict said in his homily. "Nor," he said, "can I adequately describe the damage that has occurred within the community of the church."

But what about sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll?

In his messages the pope recognized the perils and promises of the larger society in which the church functions.

He said the question of abuse must be "addressed ... within the wider context of sexual mores," asking, "What does it mean to speak of child protection when pornography and violence can be viewed in so many homes through media?"

In other words, we're a society awash in images counter to Christian values.

The Catholic Church is hardly alone in facing the problem of sexual abuse. It exists in schools, sports, families and even other faiths. But while that doesn't diminish the church's shame, it highlights the challenge facing people of faith and values.

The pope is correct: Society has a role in forming values, perhaps especially sexual ones. It is a challenge for people of faith, those like the pope who have hope in Christ, to help reform society.

*Sheridan is former editor of The Catholic New World, Archdiocese of Chicago, and a deacon ordained for the Joliet Diocese.*

*He writes from Ocala, Fla.*

## The pope and the president: Meetings public and private

*Two leaders discuss long list of moral, religious considerations*

In the movies, the white-robed pope and dark-suited president stand smiling, hands clasped, in front of the entrance to the Oval Office of the White House as it is revealed that all differences have been resolved and perfect harmony has been reached.

That is in the movies.

In reality, there was little expectation that Vatican opposition to the Iraq invasion repeatedly expressed by this pope and his predecessor would receive any greater acceptance in the waning nine months of the current administration.

In fact, the visit was preceded by a Vatican official's statement to make quite clear the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to President George W. Bush in no way indicated Vatican support of the U.S. administration's foreign policy.

"The pope and the Holy See cannot renounce with one visit all the Holy See's positions of rejecting war, always encouraging dialogue to smooth over disagreements and fostering cooperation," said Cardinal Renato Martino, a longtime Vatican diplomat.

The papal-presidential visit April 16 was more of an opportunity for the pope to take advantage of an audience to deliver the Gospel message highlighted by his concise presentation of freedom.

"The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility toward the less fortunate," he said.

What was said in the public ceremony may be more meaningful and longer lasting than what occurred in their private talk.

The pope's message might well have been directed at those who will become the nation's next leaders and to those who will elect them.

"Concern for the greater human family will continue to find expression in support for the patient efforts of international diplomacy to resolve conflicts and promote progress," said Pope Benedict.

And he had something to offer to the "I'm personally opposed but can't impose my morality" type of politician in this election year.

Freedom, he said "also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate."

The event began with Bush

Extra!  
Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



welcoming Pope Benedict on the White House lawn with a statement that reflected several of Pope Benedict's most important ideas, including the dictatorship of relativism that threatens traditional values. The president drew applause when speaking of the sanctity of human life.

"We need your message that all human life is sacred," Bush said. But at almost the same time a half dozen blocks away, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling rejecting the latest challenge to capital punishment.

The two met privately in the Oval Office for 20 minutes; a joint statement issued after the meeting said the two had discussed a long list of moral and religious considerations including the respect and dignity of the human person; the defense and promotion of life, matrimony and the family; the education of future generations; human rights and religious freedom; sustainable development and the struggle against poverty and pandemics.

It said the pope and president had devoted considerable time to the Middle East, a growing Vatican concern for the "precarious state" of the Christian community in Iraq, and expressed support for the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon.

That was a lot of ground to have been covered in only one-third of an hour.

Perhaps things were said in the Oval Office not often heard there: the denial that might makes right; a plea for a sharp reduction in military spending and using funds for peaceful development.

But the meeting did provide President Bush an opportunity, for it was he who once said he could look into eyes of an individual and see the soul of that person.

On April 16 he would have seen — and hopefully appreciated — the soul of a pope prophetically proclaiming peace.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# The pope speaks to educators

*They must engage students' intellect, encourage them to choose the good*

If you mine the text of Pope Benedict XVI's speech to Catholic educators given at The Catholic University of America April 17, you will find concepts that provide a framework for appreciating how "integral" education is to the mission of the church. That mission, the pope said, is "to proclaim the good news."

A Catholic educational institution participates in the proclamation of the good news by being "a place to encounter the living God who, in Jesus Christ, reveals his transforming love and truth."

Truth, said Pope Benedict, "means more than knowledge: Knowing the truth leads us to discover the good."

Catholic schools at all levels go beyond the communication of knowledge to the discovery of what is good; hence the importance of educating the will. It is the will that chooses the good.

"While we have sought diligently to engage the intellect of our young, perhaps we have neglected the will," said Pope Benedict.

He sees a "reluctance" on the part of many modern people to entrust themselves to God. Entrusting oneself to God involves an act of the will, and this, he said, is a "complex phenomenon and one which I ponder continually."

When education fosters an encounter with the living God, it is hoped that the

encounter will "elicit" in the student "a desire to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching."

The word "understanding" is important here. While proclamation elicits a response of faith (I believe), explanation elicits a response of reason (I understand).

School liturgies, devotions and celebrations participate in the proclamation that leads to (or deepens) faith. Classroom lectures and library research participate in the explanation that leads to (or deepens) understanding.

It is important to bear in mind, remarked the pope, that "the truths of faith and of reason never contradict one another."

The Catholic identity of a school "is not dependent upon statistics," said the pope; it does not depend on the number of Catholic students or faculty. Nor can it "be equated simply with orthodoxy of course content."

Pope Benedict added that Catholic identity is really "a question of conviction"; it requires "that each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith."

That says something not explicitly spelled out about the tone, culture and dominant values of the place.

"Is the faith tangible in our

## Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
WILLIAM J.  
BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



universities and schools?" he asked.

Expressing "profound gratitude" for all that is done at all levels of Catholic education in the United States, Pope Benedict then spoke directly to college and university faculty: "I wish to affirm the great value of academic freedom. In virtue of this freedom you are called to search for the truth wherever careful analysis of evidence leads you."

"Yet it is also the case that any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission; a mission at the heart of the church's 'munus docendi' (duty to teach) and not somehow autonomous or independent of it."

There will surely be disputes from time to time over issues of autonomy and independence, but this was a positive speech. Grateful acknowledgment was made for the "crucial role" Catholic education plays in the life of the church.

There was also a plea to religious brothers, sisters and priests not to abandon the school apostolate; and to all Catholic educators to give "public witness to the way of Christ" and to reach out especially to the poor.

# The pope's visit: It was very Catholic!

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER  
DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



In my parish there was an elderly lady who stopped on her way out of Mass to give me her evaluation of the liturgy. If she liked it she said, "That was Catholic!"

I was thrilled to attend the papal Mass in Washington, and my parishioners at St. John Vianney were very excited. We had 175 tickets distributed by lottery.

The sight lines from my seat in left field were poor. The canopy over the altar platform blocked my view of the jumbo TV. I could barely see the pope between the heads in front of me, but the sound system was great, and the choirs were just to my left.

The music was perfect. It was a mixture of styles and tempos. It ran the spectrum of liturgical music from Gospel to Gregorian chant, meringue to Mozart. Its variety reflected the diversity of the Catholic Church in America.

In Washington we have a large African-American Catholic community. The Gospel choir started us off with the great spiritual "Plenty Good Room in My Father's Kingdom." They were right. There was plenty good room for every race, nation, people and tongue.

The liturgy was basically Pentecost. There were lots of Holy Spirit songs, including several versions of "Veni Creator Spiritus" ("Come Holy Spirit"). I love that prayer, especially the part about "renewing the face of the earth."

The best rhythm was at the preparation of the gifts when the choir sang in Spanish "Ven Espiritu Santo" by Jaime Cortez. It had a complicated Afro-Caribbean-Latin drum beat. Even an aging Irishman like me could not sit still. I did my "white boy" dance.

As the bishops entered, the choir sang "Ave Verum" by Mozart. I always cry when I hear it. This time was no exception.

The pope entered the stadium to the great German hymn "Grosser Gott," known to us as "Holy God We Praise Thy Name." Everybody sang. With 45,000 voices, the Spirit was definitely "in the house."

After Communion, Placido Domingo sang "Panis Angelicus." The stadium fell silent. Priests around me welled up with tears. Even the pope stood and gave Domingo an ovation and blessing.

The pope struck exactly the right tone in his homily. He was encouraging and correcting, pastoral and probing. His mention of the victims of child abuse by the clergy was necessary. It was an important step toward healing an open wound.

The fact that he spoke in Spanish as well as English was an appropriate recognition that the U.S. Catholic Church is increasingly Latino.

When I walked out of the stadium, I was transformed. And I thought of that elderly lady from my first parish and said, "That was Catholic!"

# Incomplete answer on Friday abstinence

In the April 18 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, Father James Dietzen responded to a question regarding Friday abstinence ("Friday again days of abstinence?"). His response was incomplete in terms of the Catholic Church's current discipline, and could very easily lead your readers into error.

Pope Paul VI's apostolic constitution on penance, "Paenitemini," issued in 1966, did indeed give greater freedom to individuals to choose, outside of the Lenten season, what form of penance they wished to perform. In 1983, the Code of Canon Law was promulgated by Pope John Paul II in which the current law of the church regarding days of penance was formally set out.

Three canons are most applicable:

— Can. 1249: All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance. However, so that all may be joined together in a certain common practice of penance, days of penance are prescribed.

On these days the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and especially by observing the fast and abstinence which the following canons prescribe.

— Can. 1250: The days and times of penance for the universal church are

each Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.

— Can. 1251: Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

As you can see, all Fridays are indeed days of penance and should be days of abstinence. Outside of Lent, however, the faithful are free to determine some other act of penance if they choose not to abstain from meat.

— Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

## Pure Fashion values needed for men, also

I have been reading with interest the articles that have appeared in The Catholic News & Herald and local newspaper on the Pure Fashion show in Charlotte ("Models of the 'Great Designer,'" April 18). As a Catholic woman, I find it interesting that this movement seems to be limited to young women. I'm wondering if there is a similar program for young men. I haven't seen evidence of one anywhere

## Letters to the Editor

but perhaps I've missed it.

The quote from the Charlotte chair of this program was telling and gave rise to my concern: "The seeds of modesty begin at home. It's never too early to start teaching our young girls the importance of living a life of dignity."

I agree that the teaching of all values is the responsibility of parents and should begin at home. But I strongly disagree that young girls are the only ones who need to be taught about "living a life of dignity."

From what I've observed as an adult over the last 10 to 15 years, young men could benefit from a similar message and program. In my view, integrating this message for young people, men and women, seems to be the healthiest approach.

Otherwise young women are continually singled out as those who need "help" or "correction" and this impacts their thinking as adults. That is an unrealistic and unjust burden for young women — as well as adult women.

We need to stop that thinking in its tracks.

—Eileen Crusan Marvin, N.C.



## Zimbabwean church leaders: Opposition voters targeted for torture *International intervention is needed, they say*

BY BRONWEN DACHS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Zimbabwe's Christian leaders have called for international intervention in the country's crisis, saying that those accused of voting for the opposition in March 29 elections are being tortured, abducted and murdered.

"We warn the world that if nothing is done to help the people of Zimbabwe from their predicament, we shall soon be witnessing genocide similar to that experienced in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and other hot spots in Africa and elsewhere," said the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe in an April 22 statement from the capital, Harare.

Noting that they recently "issued statements commending Zimbabweans for the generally peaceful and politically mature manner in which they conducted themselves before, during and soon after the elections," the leaders said recent reports from their churches throughout the country gave cause for alarm.

"Organized violence perpetrated against individuals, families and communities who are accused of campaigning or voting for the 'wrong' political party ... has been unleashed throughout the country, particularly in the countryside and in some high-density urban areas," they said.

"People are being abducted, tortured, humiliated by being asked to repeat slogans of the political party they are alleged not to support, ordered to attend mass meetings where they are told they voted for the 'wrong' candidate and should never repeat it in the runoff election for president, and, in some cases, people are murdered," they said.

The church leaders urged the people of Zimbabwe "to refuse to be used for a political party or other people's selfish end, especially where it concerns violence against other people, including those who hold different views from your own."

Commending Zimbabweans for turning out to vote and "for exercising your democratic right peacefully," the church leaders urged their members "to maintain and protect your dignity and your vote."

The church leaders expressed their "deep concern over the deteriorating political, security, economic and human rights situation in Zimbabwe," where official results of the presidential and parliamentary elections have yet to be released.

Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai says he won the presidential election and that his party took a majority of parliamentary seats.

President Robert Mugabe, 84, and his supporters are preparing for a runoff as well as challenging some of the parliamentary results.

The church leaders urged Zimbabwe's electoral commission "to release the true results" of the elections, noting that "the unprecedented delay in the publication of these results has caused anxiety, frustration, depression, suspicion and in some cases illness among the people of Zimbabwe" at home and abroad.

"A pall of despondency hangs over the nation, which finds itself in a crisis of expectations and governance. The nation is in a crisis, in limbo, and no real business is taking place anywhere as the nation waits," they said.

The church leaders appealed to the Southern African Development

Community, the African Union and the United Nations "to work toward arresting the deteriorating political and security situation in Zimbabwe."

The church leaders said that, "as the shepherds of the people," they were appealing for an "immediate end to political intimidation and retribution arising from how people are perceived to have voted."

Youth militia and military base camps "that have been set up in different parts of the country should be closed," they said.

"The deterioration in the humanitarian situation is plummeting at a frightful pace," the church leaders said, noting that the cost of living "has gone beyond the reach of the majority of our people."

Zimbabwe has the world's highest inflation rate — more than 100,000 percent — an unemployment rate of more than 80 percent and severe shortages of basic foods and fuel.

"There is widespread famine in most

parts of the countryside on account of poor harvests and delays in the process of importing maize from neighboring countries. The shops are empty and basic foodstuffs are unavailable," said the leaders.

"Victims of organized torture who are ferried to (the) hospital find little solace as the hospitals have no drugs or medicines to treat them," they said.

Zimbabwe's Jesuits said that if the concepts of national sovereignty and noninterference "prevent the people of Africa from coming to the aid of their oppressed, abused, starved brothers and sisters, then we must question the value of such concepts, inherited from 19th-century colonial powers, and redefine them according to our" present needs.

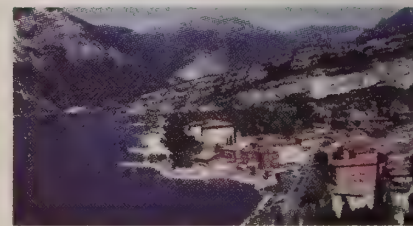
"The real people of Africa, men, women and children, their welfare, health, education, work and shelter must be the center and focus of all political endeavors and (hold) the attention of statesmen," they said in their April 17 newsletter.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us — St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping — it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

\*per person with double occupancy

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 — or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



CNS PHOTO BY PHILIMON BULAWAYO, REUTERS

Innocent Hove eats inside his home in a suburb of Harare, Zimbabwe, April 21. Christian leaders have called for international intervention in the country's crisis, saying that those accused of voting for the opposition in March 29 elections are being tortured, abducted and murdered.





## Perspectives

*Becoming Christ-like,  
especially in old age; ironic  
Supreme Court action during  
pope's visit*

| PAGES 14-15

## To strengthen and be strengthened

*Pope says trip to U.S.  
was opportunity to  
give, receive hope, faith*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said his April 15-20 visit to the United Nations and the United States was an opportunity to give — and to receive — a witness to the power of hope and faith.

Reflecting on his trip during his April 30 weekly general audience, the pope said the hope that flows from faith in Christ can vanquish even the darkness cast by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Christian hope, “stronger

See POPE, page 7

## Glancing at the Good Book

*75 percent of  
Americans surveyed  
read Bible passage in  
last year*

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a survey conducted in nine countries in anticipation of the October world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, 75 percent of U.S. residents interviewed said they read a Bible passage in the previous 12 months.

In Western and Eastern

See BIBLE, page 6

## Back to the ‘old Mass’



COURTESY PHOTO BY DARIN CAUDLE

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, celebrates the Mass in the extraordinary form. Father Kowalski has celebrated the Latin-language liturgy weekly since January.

See MASS, page 8

## Honoring a faithful servant

*Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy  
celebrates 50 years as a priest*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Sunday, April 27, was a day of joyful celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church and at the center of it all was a humble man in a brown habit.

This spring marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood for Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy.

The parish celebrated with

a reception in the parish hall following the 11 a.m. Mass.

“As I look back, it doesn’t seem like 50 years,” said Father Duffy, who has been the pastor at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte since 1999.

“I don’t remember the bad times in life,” he said, “I always

See PRIEST, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy greets parishioners after the 11 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte April 27. Following the Mass, a reception was held in honor of Father Duffy’s 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## SOLDIER SIBLINGS



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Members of the Sosa family, Elvira (mother), and siblings Robert, Rosemary and Oscar pose at their home in Chicago in 2007. The three siblings serve in the U.S. military. Robert and his brother are in the Army and Rosemary is in the National Guard.

## Catholic brothers, sister serve their country as another waits in wings

CHICAGO (CNS) — Elvira Sosa never saw herself as a military mother. No one in her family, or her husband Pedro's family, had ever served in uniform.

So when her middle son, Robert Sosa, told her he had enlisted in the Army four years ago, she didn't believe him at first. Then her older son, Oscar Sosa, decided to join his brother in the service. Most recently, her daughter, Rosemary Sosa, enlisted in the National Guard.

Even the baby of the family, 7-year-old Adrian, has announced he wants to be a soldier like his brothers and sister.

Elvira said she copes with the threat of her children being in harm's way by spending a lot of time in prayer. A parishioner at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Chicago, the mother of five said, "I am a nervous wreck, but I have my faith."

Robert now is 23 and home after completing his active service. His unit spent a year stationed in Iraq, patrolling the streets of Sadr City in Baghdad.

"It had its ups and downs," he said. "It was an experience dealing with the people out there."

He was just returning from his overseas deployment when Oscar finished basic training. Oscar, now 27, enlisted two and a half years ago, while his brother was stationed in Iraq.

He is now stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., after completing a 15-month stint in a region south of Baghdad, where he was a radio-telephone operator.

"I was going to sign up after high

school," Oscar said while home on leave. "My parents convinced me not to, to try school. I signed up when I was 24."

When he did, he went with his parents' reluctant blessing.

"I never said, 'Don't do it,'" Elvira said. "It's a bad time to do it, but you never know what's going to happen."

While her sons were in Iraq, Elvira refused to watch the news on TV. But she did communicate regularly with both young men via a webcam, a camera connected to their computers.

"I would just leave the computer on, and whenever they buzzed, I'd go running," she said. "I'd always ask them if they remembered to bless themselves before they went out."

She also sent along holy cards, medals and rosaries, gifts from the extended family.

They apparently had an effect, because Oscar said he was never scared.

"I knew if I died I was going to heaven," he said.

Daughter Rosemary left for basic training in February. She's doing well, according to her mother.

Oscar is due to be discharged Sept. 11 of this year, but both he and Robert will remain eligible to be called up as part of the Army Reserve.

Now out of the service for nearly a year, Robert has found it difficult to adjust to life as a civilian, with no one telling him when to get up, when to work out or what to do. He hopes to start taking college classes soon, and get a job.

## Senate passes bill that bars discrimination based on genetic testing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill passed April 24 by the U.S. Senate barring health insurers and employers from discriminating against individuals because of their own or their family's genetic information has won praise from the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the secretariat, said the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act will protect born and unborn children as well as children in the process of adoption.

"This bill helps protect and empower families to welcome and nurture some of the most vulnerable members of their family," McQuade said.

"The bill protects vulnerable populations from discrimination, whether those groups are ethnic, racial or gender-based, or based on their vulnerable size and location, namely in utero or in the lab

somewhere," she said.

Approved unanimously, 95-0, in the Senate April 24, the legislation would prevent insurers from using genetic data to set premiums or determine enrollment eligibility for anyone.

The bill also bans the use of genetic information by employers in hiring, firing or promotion decisions.

The House version of the bill passed April 25, 2007, in a 420-3 vote.

Minor differences in the two bills must be reconciled before the legislation is sent to President George W. Bush for signing. The House was expected to vote again on a revised measure the week of April 28.

Lawmakers promoted the bill as a major advance in civil rights. Sponsors said that although hundreds of genetic tests are available some people may not take advantage of the exams out of fear the information would be used against them.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — In honor of the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give a talk at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W., Sunday, June 8 at 3 p.m. Following the talk, P.G.A. Life member and Immaculate Conception parishioner Ron Garcia will testify to how his asthma and allergies were miraculously cured by water from Lourdes. A question and answer session will follow, along with a reception. All are welcome to attend, there is no charge. For more information, call Ron Garcia at (828) 696-8163.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m.

Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — The *semi-annual rosary rally* will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The rally will include the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Join us as we honor Our Lady. For more information, contact Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — "The Moral Alternative to Contraception, An Introduction to Natural Family Planning" (NFP) will be presented at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Road, from 7-8:30 p.m., May 15 in classroom 1 & 2 of the Mgr. Allen Center. Judy Townsend, a trained counselor and instructor of NFP, will present and share her expertise. Couples are highly encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at [tmathis3@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tmathis3@carolina.rr.com).

CHARLOTTE — There will be an *introduction to the Mass in the extraordinary form* at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Wednesday, May 21, 7-8:15 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the traditional liturgy is welcome to attend. The Mass in the extraordinary form will be celebrated at St. Ann Church on Saturdays at 8 a.m., beginning May 31. If you would like more information, contact James Blake at [jrlake@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jrlake@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 551-0686.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Senior Group of Holy Spirit Church* meets once a month for fun and fellowship.

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Iranian Muslims, Vatican reps say faith is never against reason

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While faith sometimes calls for belief in something that goes beyond a person's ability to understand, faith is never against reason, said participants in a Vatican-Iranian Catholic-Muslim dialogue.

Six representatives of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization met with a six-member delegation of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in Rome April 28-30 to discuss the relationship between faith and reason.

The topic was a key theme in Pope Benedict XVI's September 2006 speech in Regensburg, Germany, in which he offended many Muslims by quoting a 14th-century Christian emperor's criticism of Islam and raised questions about the relationship between faith and reason in Islam.

The Vatican-Iranian dialogue participants met briefly with Pope Benedict April 30 after his general audience.

"Faith and reason are both gifts of God

to mankind," said a final statement issued by the participants in the April meeting. "Faith and reason do not contradict each other, but faith might in some cases be above reason, but never against it." The participants also said, "Faith and reason are intrinsically nonviolent."

However, they acknowledged, both faith and reason sometimes have been manipulated to promote violence.

More generally, members of the dialogue pledged to continue working together to promote "genuine religiosity," spirituality and morality and to ensure their followers respect the religious symbols of the other.

And, they said, "religious traditions cannot be judged on the basis of a single verse or a passage present in their respective holy books."

The April meeting was the sixth encounter of the Vatican-Iranian dialogue group; the next meeting will be held in Tehran, Iran, in 2010.

All are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center. The group is currently studying the Gospel of Mark. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — Come for *Coffee Talk* Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the youth room of the Kloster Center, St. Pius the Tenth Church, 2210 North Elm St. The topic for May 4 will be the "Seven Secrets of the Eucharist." For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass of thanksgiving and celebration* of the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The Mass will take place Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. Father James Ebright will be the homilist. For more information, contact the Te Deum Foundation at (336) 765-1815.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, call Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail stalscoordinator@charter.net.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

KANNAPOLIS — The *Sacred Heart Enthronement Mission* will take place at St. Joseph Church, 108 St. Joseph St., May 4-7, from 7-9 p.m. The mission speaks about a way of life for individuals and for families. Themes will address

the awareness of the living presence of our Lord in the home where Jesus is the center of the family. Refreshments will follow each evening. For further information, visit [www.saintjosephcatholic.org](http://www.saintjosephcatholic.org) or call (704) 932-4607.

SALISBURY — Our *Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult education classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail [luce54@aol.com](mailto:luce54@aol.com).

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has Eucharistic adoration each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Obedience of Love and Service*" May 4, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail [spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net](mailto:spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net) or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmooore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmooore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**May 5 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Good Shepherd Church, King

**May 7 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Peter Church, Charlotte

**May 9 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

**May 10 (5 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington

## Vatican says Christians, Buddhists should work jointly on environment

VATICANCITY (CNS) — Christians and Buddhists should work together to promote respect for the earth and a safe, clean environment, said the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

In a message for the feast of Vesakh, a commemoration of the major events in the life of Buddha, the Vatican council urged Christians and Buddhists to work together to contribute to the public debate concerning climate change and sustainable development.

The Vatican released the message April 29 as many Buddhist communities were preparing to celebrate Vesakh May 12-18.

The message, signed by the council's president, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, and secretary, Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, said Christian and Buddhist traditions respect creation and "have a common concern to promote care for the environment which we all share."

All people should be concerned with the future of the planet including "matters of grave concern" such as climate change, environmental preservation and sustainable development, it said.

Governments, industries, and grassroots groups have recognized that there are "ethical implications present in all economic and social development,"

and they are paying more attention to biodiversity, climate change and protecting the environment, it said.

While religious leaders have been adding their voices to the public debate, it said, Christians and Buddhists can work together to "be harbingers of hope for a clean, safe and harmonious world."

"Christianity and Buddhism have always upheld a great respect for nature and taught that we should be grateful stewards of the earth," said the message.

The only way to ensure efforts to protect the environment will never be sullied by human greed or hindered by special interests is to help people understand the relationship between "the divine Creator, creation and creatures."

The message asked Christians and Buddhists to collaborate more on environmental projects and remind people of their individual responsibility to care for the earth through public education and "our good example" as caring stewards.

The message said initiatives focusing on "recycling, energy conservation, the prevention of indiscriminate destruction of plant and animal life, and the protection of waterways" are some things that would "foster good will and promote cordial relationships among peoples."

## The countdown commences



CNS PHOTO BY REINHA RD KRAUSE, REUTERS

Catholic nuns pray for a successful Olympics during a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Beijing April 30. The Mass was one of a series of events marking the start of the 100-day countdown to the 2008 Summer Olympics.

## Vatican dismisses newspaper's report that pope is sick

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has dismissed a French newspaper report suggesting that Pope Benedict XVI is suffering from poor health.

"Certainly the pope is a man of 81 years, but he is well and is carrying out all his tasks, as everyone can see on live TV," Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said April 26.

Father Lombardi said the newspaper report was all the more surprising because it came immediately after the pope's

successful six-day trip to the United States.

An article published April 25 in *Le Figaro* said the pope looked fatigued at times during his U.S. visit. It's no secret, the newspaper said, that the pope has a "fragile heart."

Father Lombardi said the pope already had resumed his regular schedule, and is scheduled to make several more trips inside and outside Italy this year.

In July he will travel to Australia for World Youth Day.

### CORRECTION

In the April 18 issue, the "Ascend the Mountain of the Lord" workshop was reported as being sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. It actually was sponsored by the Western Region Office of Faith Formation. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.





COURTESY PHOTO

Ellen Kirk, regent of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1759, presents 50-year anniversary pins to charter members (from left) Thelma Boulus, Charlotte Taylor, Bobbi Womack and Mary Frances Roueche during the court's 50th anniversary celebration in Salisbury April 20.

## Catholic Daughters Court 1759 celebrates 50th anniversary

SALISBURY — Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1759 of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury recently gathered to celebrate the court's 50th anniversary.

The celebration was held at the home of Frances Edwards in Salisbury April 20. Representatives from courts in Greensboro, Statesville and Durham attended.

The court's 25th anniversary also had been held in Edwards' home, when her mother owned the house. Edwards said she has fond memories of seeing many women at her home working on Catholic Daughters projects.

During the 50th anniversary celebration, 50-year anniversary pins were presented to charter members Charlotte Taylor, Bobbi Womack, Thelma Boulus and Mary Frances Roueche.

Other 50-year members not in attendance were Charlotte Gardner, Ann Ramsey and Ruth Boone.

Mary Ann Grabasky, Catholic Daughters North Carolina state regent, presented the court with a set of crystal vases, along with a certificate commemorating the 50th year of the court.

Gerri Butler was also recognized as a long-time member, officer and past state regent of Catholic Daughters, who had traveled from Charlotte to represent Charlotte 1759 when it first was established.

Founded in 1903, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is one of the largest national organizations of Catholic women in the world.

The Salisbury court reaches out to parishioners and the community, and

has been a key supporter of the church through serving bereavement meals, hosting receptions, making handmade quilts for shut-ins and providing financial support for a variety of other parish projects.

## Breaking ground at St. Mark Church

### New church to be completed by June 2009

BY DAVID HAINS  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

HUNTERSVILLE — With ceremonial shovels in hand, Bishop Peter J. Jugis and clergy and laity of St. Mark Church in Huntersville broke ground for a new church.

The brief groundbreaking ceremony April 25 included a Scripture reading and remarks by Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor, and Bishop Jugis.

"Let us pray that God will bring this construction to a successful completion and that his protection will keep those

who work from injury," said the bishop.

Parishioners have been raising funds for the new church since 2004. The new \$8-million church building will seat 1,400-1,600 people for Mass.

Currently a Mass is celebrated in the gymnasium of the Msgr. Joseph Kerin Family Life Center.

The parish of St. Mark was founded in 1997 and currently has more than 3,000 registered families.

The new church is scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (center) takes part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new St. Mark Church in Huntersville April 25. Clergy also pictured are (from left) Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar; Deacon Robert Murphy; Deacon Louis Pais; Father Christopher Roux, bishop's priest secretary; and Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor. Also participating are members of the parish building committee.



## Thanks, Mom, For The Beautiful Gift of Life



To mothers on this day of honor, we thank you for your courageous love in giving us life ... and to those birth mothers who lovingly choose adoption for their children and those who give the love of their hearts to adopted children, we say to all, "Happy Mother's Day!"

We love you and give you our thanks every day of our lives.

Respect Life Office 704-370-3229





# Father Jude celebrates 50 years as a priest

PRIEST, from page 1

think of the good times."

Born in Kingston, N.Y., Jan. 31, 1927, Father Duffy felt the call to the priesthood early in life.

He first entered the Capuchin Franciscan order in Staunton, Va. in 1952.

"One of the great joys has been becoming a Capuchin Franciscan," said Father Duffy. "It is a loving fraternity that supports us in all the things that we do."

He was ordained to the priesthood March 1, 1958 at Immaculate Conception Church in Bronx, N.Y.

"Father Jude has been one of the most respected friars throughout our province," said Capuchin Franciscan Father Remo DiSalvatore, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"He broke a lot of barriers," said Father DiSalvatore, who joked about how Father Duffy was one of the first non-Italian friars in the province.

But in all seriousness he added, "They placed a lot of responsibility on his shoulders."

Father Duffy was elected as the first provincial minister of the newly formed Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis, at their first meeting in 1970.

"He is a great mentor because he

shows you how to live the Gospel day by day, by his own actions," said Capuchin Brother Lombardo D'Auria, a post-novitiate friar in residence at the parish.

"He follows what St. Francis said, 'preach the gospel, if necessary use words,'" said Brother D'Auria.

The reception honoring his 50 years of priesthood included a musical performance by the parish Perpetual Hope Choir, liturgical dance and a presentation of gifts from parish committees and organizations.

"Father Jude has been the epitome of selflessness and humility," said Nanette Lide, youth minister and parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"It is evidence of his calling and we at Our Lady of Consolation are truly grateful that he said 'yes' 50 years ago," she said.

Father Duffy is equally appreciative of his years at the parish.

"Serving here has been the pleasure of my life," he said. "The people are filled with faith."

His parishioners are grateful for his dedicated service.

"I am very proud to call him our shepherd," said Lide, "He has truly been a faithful servant."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, cuts the cake at a celebration honoring his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. The reception was held in the parish hall after the 11 a.m. Mass April 27.

"Serving here has been the pleasure of my life. The people are filled with faith."

— Capuchin Franciscan Father Jude Duffy

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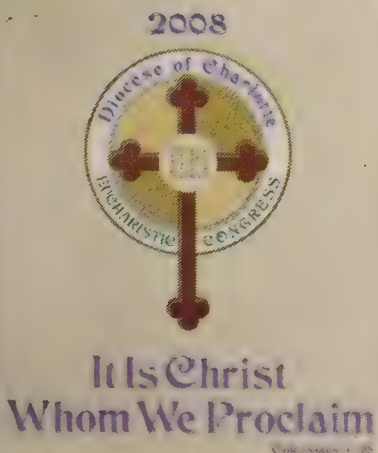


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Members of the Perpetual Hope Choir at Our Lady of Consolation Church perform at a reception honoring their pastor, Father Jude Duffy, for the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood April 27.



## FROM THE COVER

# 75 percent of Americans surveyed read Bible passage in last year

BIBLE, from page 1

Europe, the percentage of Bible readers ranged from a low of 20 percent in Spain to a high of 38 percent in Poland.

The study, commissioned by the Catholic Biblical Federation, began with 13,000 interviews in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Russia, Spain and Italy in November 2007.

The president of the federation, Italian Bishop Vincenzo Paglia of Terni, Narni and Amelia, presented the initial results of the survey April 28 during a Vatican press conference and said a second stage of the survey was being conducted in Argentina, South Africa, the Philippines and Australia.

The majority of people in the first nine countries — including 90 percent of Polish respondents — said the Bible is an important source of truth, but more than 50 percent of those interviewed in each country said the Bible was difficult to understand.

Bishop Paglia said, "Despite secularization and little openness to religious experience ... the sacred Scriptures are looked upon with great respect by everyone."

But the fact that the majority defined the Bible as difficult to understand challenges the church to help people learn to read it and see how it applies to their lives, particularly through improved homilies, the bishop said.

Luca Diotallevi, the Rome sociologist who coordinated the survey's working group, said that, while the study found the Bible to be important in the lives and cultures of those interviewed, there was a huge difference between Bible reading in the U.S. and in the other countries.

The most relevant factor in promoting

Bible reading, he said, was having a Bible in one's home; 93 percent of the U.S. residents interviewed said they had one and 56 percent said they had given someone a Bible as a gift.

He said he was struck particularly by the elements that seemed to predict a higher level of individual reading of and praying with the Scriptures; reading, reading books with a religious theme — including fiction — participating in religious services and being involved in a church-related group were the most predictive factors.

Praying often, believing the Bible contains important truths and identifying oneself as Christian did not correlate as closely with reports of actually reading the Bible on one's own, he said.

The differences, Diotallevi said, "indicated that reading the Bible is a habit one acquires through imitation," rather than simply conviction.

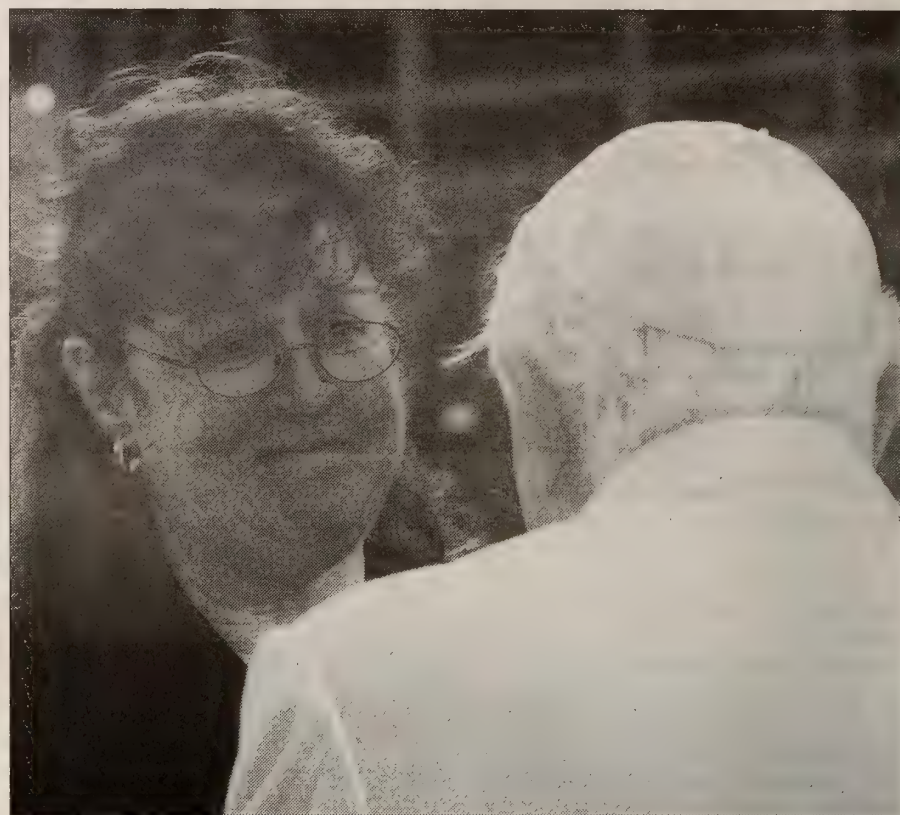
In the nine countries, he said, "the sense that God is near is anything but extinct and religious practice is anything but marginal."

"The Bible is seen by the vast majority of the population as a source of truth, as the source of a message that has something to do with one's life," he said.

The other interesting thing, he said, is that those who took a "fundamentalist" approach to the Bible, affirming that it is the "direct word of God" and must be taken literally, were not those who knew the Bible best.

And, Diotallevi said, the U.S. residents who reported reading the Bible most often did not have a significantly greater knowledge of its contents than those who did not read the Bible often.

Biblical knowledge was tested by asking these questions: Are the Gospels part of the Bible? Did Jesus write one of the books of the Bible? Was Paul or Moses a figure from the Old Testament? Which of the following wrote a Gospel: Luke? John? Paul? Peter?



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Pope Benedict XVI talks with Julie Malik at the former site of the World Trade Center in New York April 20. Malik, was among four survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks who spoke with the pope during a prayer service at Ground Zero.

## Meeting pope at Ground Zero brings tears to Sept. 11 survivor

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Looking into Pope Benedict XVI's eyes as she genuflected in front of him during his visit to the former World Trade Center site, Julie Malik knew the pope understood what she had experienced on a disastrous September morning more than six years ago.

"I remember thinking, 'You're here. You're here to help us. You took your time to understand,'" Malik said of the April 20 meeting.

Malik, 57, was one of four survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack in lower Manhattan who met the pontiff during his visit to Ground Zero. Four rescue workers and 16 people who lost family members in the disaster also met the pope at the site.

"There's one word I can think of to describe (the meeting) and that is 'amazing,'" Malik said. "His eyes are so penetrating. He just stares in your eyes."

Meeting Pope Benedict came as a surprise to Malik, a member of the Church of the Incarnation in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood. Her pastor, Msgr. Gabriel La Paz, had written to the Archdiocese of New York telling them she had survived the disaster.

Even so, when the call came to her home from the archdiocese, Malik said she thought it was someone playing a joke.

"Then they told me I was going to meet the pope," she said. "I said, 'Uh huh. I'm going to meet the man? Get out of town.'"

After the pope left the site, Malik looked at two of the other survivors: a woman she knew from another New York parish and a man who worked in the Pentagon not far from where a jetliner

also crashed on the morning of Sept. 11.

"We turned and looked at each other. I think it was the fact that we were all survivors, we all started hugging and crying. It's a different feeling. We were there (when it happened)," she said.

Sept. 11, 2001, began like every other workday for Malik. She met a co-worker outside the south tower and they made their way to the 91st floor offices of the engineering firm Washington Group International.

She was preparing for her day as the receptionist in the elevator lobby when other workers came running toward her saying something had happened at the north tower.

No one knew it at the time, but the first jet had crashed into the tower. She looked out a window herself.

"I remember thinking 'This isn't a mistake. This is scary,'" Malik said.

Although she doesn't specifically recall what happened in the next few moments, Malik said co-workers later told her she was giving them instructions to get their personal items and get out of the building.

She was on the ground when the second plane hit with a thunderous roar just below her firm's offices. Not all of her co-workers survived.

She left the area quickly, long before either building collapsed.

Malik said meeting the pope was important to her healing, especially because she was laid off from the engineering firm last fall after more than 20 years on the job. She now works for a company in New York's garment district.

"People forget we were there," she said. "Yes, families lost someone and I don't mean to demean that, but we were there too. We lost friends too."

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## FROM THE COVER

# Pope says trip to U.S. was opportunity to give, receive hope, faith

POPE, from page 1

than sin and death, animated a moment filled with emotion, which I passed in silence in the abyss of Ground Zero, where I lighted a candle, praying for all the victims of that terrible tragedy," the pope said.

The pope began his general audience by publicly thanking the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and President George W. Bush for inviting him, and all those who greeted him with affection and offered prayers for the success of his visit.

Particularly when celebrating his third anniversary as pope with an April 19 Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, he said "it was a moving moment in which I experienced in a tangible way all of the support of the church for my ministry."

Addressing the 20,000 people who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for the audience, the pope said he set out on the trip "to confirm Catholics in the faith, to renew and increase brotherhood with all Christians and to proclaim to all the message of Christ our hope."

Speaking in German without his prepared text, the pope said that everywhere he went in the United States "I was able to experience the fact that the faith is alive, that Christ is there today among the people, that he shows them the way and helps them to build the present as well as the future."

The pope told the German speakers that God gave him an opportunity to try to strengthen the faith of others, "but at the same time, I was strengthened and came back strengthened."

In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict said that the United States, from its founding, was built "on the foundation

of a felicitous joining of religious, ethical and political principles, which still today constitutes a valid example of healthy secularity."

The United States, he said, is a place "where the religious dimension in all its variety is not only tolerated, but is valued as the spirit of the nation and as the fundamental guarantee of human rights and responsibilities."

Modern life and global realities continue to challenge the country, he said, and the Catholic Church has an obligation to offer its voice in order to help citizens build a society worthy of the human person and one that uses its resources to help others.

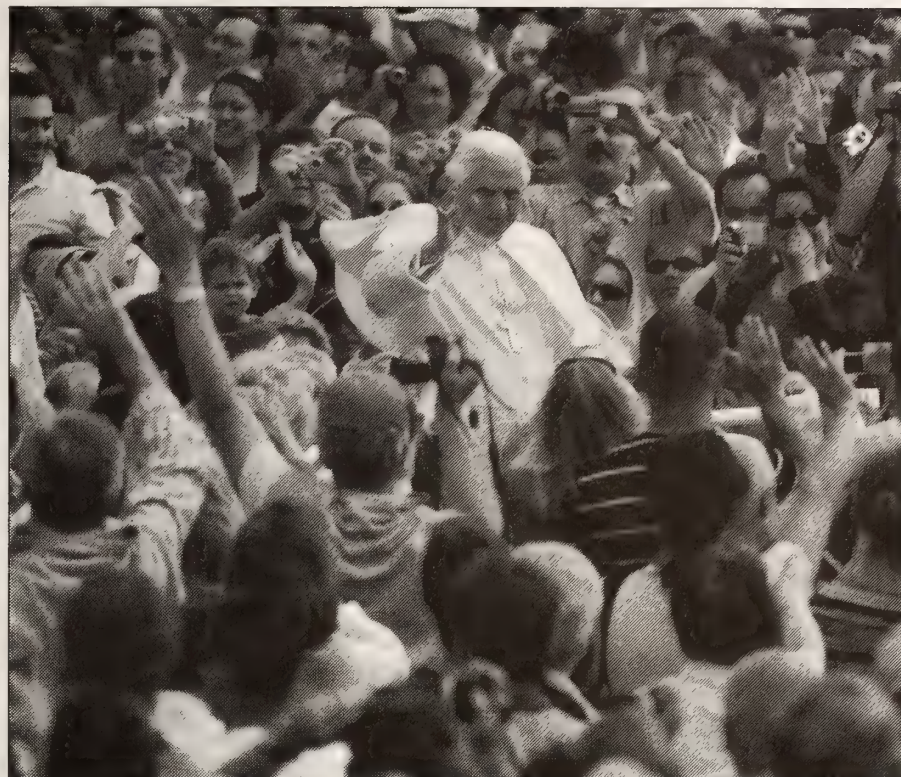
The timing of the trip, he said, was chosen to help celebrate the bicentennials of four archdioceses in the United States: New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Louisville, Ky.

They were erected from the Baltimore Diocese, the nation's first diocese, which was elevated to an archdiocese in the same year, 1808.

"The original small flock has developed enormously, enriching itself with the faith and traditions of the successive influx of immigrants. To that church, which now faces the challenges of the present, I had the joy of proclaiming again Christ, our hope, yesterday, today and forever," he said.

Praising the zeal of the bishops and priests who have led U.S. Catholics over the years and "the fervor and generosity of its faithful," Pope Benedict said the Gospel and Christian values — particularly the value of human life and the centrality of the traditional family — must be strengthened in order to face new moral, ethical and political challenges.

As he did throughout his trip, the pope also spoke at his audience about the clergy sex abuse scandal that



CNS PHOTO BY GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful as he arrives for his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 30. The pope said his April 15-20 visit to the United Nations and the United States was an opportunity to give and to receive a witness to the power of hope and faith.

rocked the U.S. church.

"Thinking of the painful affair of the abuse of minors committed by ordained ministers, I wanted to express my closeness to the bishops, encouraging them in their commitment to bind up the wounds and to reinforce relations with their priests," he said.

Pope Benedict said the "multicultural vocation" of the United States and the active presence of a wide variety of Christian communities and other religions gave him an opportunity to meet with religious leaders to promote closer cooperation among Christians and a dialogue to strengthen peace and religious values with other believers.

At the United Nations, he said, he wanted to help celebrate the 60th

anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and confirm its enduring value precisely because it is based on "the dignity of the human person, created by God in his image and likeness, in order to cooperate with him in his plan for life and for peace."

Respect for human rights and peace can flourish only where there is justice, "an ethical order valid for all times and all peoples," which can be summarized with Jesus' phrase, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

## WANT THE TEXT?

For the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English, see page 15.

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COURTESY PHOTO BY DARIN CAUDLE

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, celebrates the Mass in the extraordinary form. Assisting is Doyle Caudle, a convert to Catholicism. During the Latin-language liturgy, the altar is against the wall at the back of the sanctuary and the priest and people face the same direction in worship.

## Several churches in extraordinary

MASS, from page 1

Mass at his parish Jan. 5.

"When the Holy Father released the 'motu proprio,' that's when it really began," said Father Kowalski.

In his July 2007 apostolic letter, "Summorum Pontificum," Pope Benedict XVI eased restrictions on the use of the 1962 Roman Missal, which was standard before the new Order of the Mass was introduced in 1970.

The papal decree was issued "motu proprio," a term that reflects the pope's personal initiative in the matter.

The Mass from the Roman Missal in use since 1970 remains the ordinary form of the Mass.

After inserting copies of the "motu proprio" and the pope's letter to the bishops in his parish bulletin, Father Kowalski opened the issue up to his parish and hosted a general meeting to talk about the Mass in the extraordinary form.

"The people were very open and very interested," he said of the approximately 50 parishioners who came to the meeting.

Soon he began offering refresher seminars for those who wanted to work on Latin pronunciation and familiarize themselves with the prayers.

Now, Father Kowalski celebrates the Mass in extraordinary form every Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

"It fits very seamlessly into our liturgical life here," he said.



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# Parishes now offering Mass in extraordinary form in diocese

By adding the Latin-language Mass to the weekend Mass schedule, it fulfills the Sunday obligation for the 40 to 60 parishioners who typically attend.

In terms of execution, the extraordinary form of the Mass requires a great deal of preparation on the part of the priest.

"It's a bit intimidating at first because you want to do it with attention and devotion and you want to offer it properly," said Father Kowalski, who typically spends about two hours a week preparing for the liturgy.

"It's become a great joy for me," he added. "It really has deepened my own spiritual growth and faith."

Another church in the diocese where the Mass in the extraordinary form is now offered is St. Joseph Church in Asheboro.

For Father Christopher Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church, the Latin-language Mass was particularly appealing.

"I had studied renaissance and medieval music," said Father Davis. "It was right up my alley and part of my own personal spirituality."

Father Davis celebrates the Mass at his parish every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

One of the things he enjoys most is the structure and silence of the extraordinary form.

"It allows time for contemplative prayer," he said. "You really get that sense of reverential silence upon entering into the mystery of the Eucharist."

He also mentioned the noticeable similarities between the two forms of the Mass.

"To me it's been beautiful to see how much of the 'new Mass' is still retained from the 'old Mass,'" he said.

"You can see the progression of what the church has now and what we can go back to," said Father Davis.

In his letter, Pope Benedict stated, "There is no contradiction between the

"You really get that sense of reverential silence upon entering into the mystery of the Eucharist."

— Father Christopher Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Asheboro

two editions of the Roman Missal."

"In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture," he said. "What earlier generations held as sacred remains sacred and great for us, too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful."

The pope noted, however, that the ordinary form of the Mass must not be neglected.

"Needless to say, in order to experience full communion, also the priests of the communities adhering to the former usage cannot, as a matter of principle, exclude celebrating according to the new books," the pope said.

"The total exclusion of the new rite would not in fact be consistent with the recognition of its value and holiness," he added.

Anyone who remembers the pre-Vatican II form may notice a few changes.

Now, the congregation is more involved in dialogue and responses and the readings are said in English.

"It's just easier for everyone," said Father Davis, who noted that all of the changes have been approved by Pope Benedict.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DARIN CAUDLE

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, follows Doyle Caudle in the exit recessional during the extraordinary form of the Mass.

Later this month, Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, will begin celebrating the Mass in extraordinary form at his parish.

Father Reid will offer an introduction to the extraordinary form at St. Ann Church on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. He will begin celebrating the Mass in extraordinary form on Saturdays at 8 a.m., beginning May 31.

### WANT MORE INFO?

Catholics interested in attending a Mass in extraordinary form should contact the office of their vicar forane — a priest who coordinates pastoral activities among groups of churches — to find out Mass times and locations.

For a complete list of vicars forane visit [www.charlottediocese.org/agencydirectory\\_post.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/agencydirectory_post.html) and click on vicars forane.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DARIN CAUDLE

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, reverences the paten before the fraction rite of the extraordinary form of the Mass.

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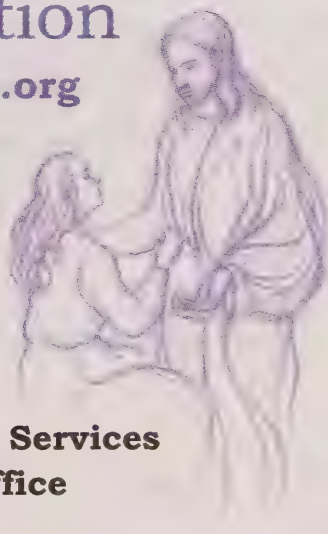
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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book argues that 'unnecessary secrecy' hurts everyone in church

REVIEWED BY DAVID GIBSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Nothing to Hide" is a book about "unnecessary secrecy in the conduct of church affairs," written by Russell Shaw, a longtime Catholic writer and church social-communications expert.

Shaw believes that, with the exception of the seal of the confessional, "the presumption in the church's day-in, day-out life should favor openness and accountability." In the church, "the burden of proof should rest with those who advocate secrecy in any particular case," Shaw says.

Yet, what concerns him is not "legitimate secrecy of the kind required to protect confidential records and people's reputations." Rather, he is "concerned with the stifling, deadening misuse of secrecy that does immense injury to communion and community in the church."

Shaw appears to write in two modes here: as a historian and as a commentator on church affairs. The second mode shouldn't surprise anyone. Shaw contributes frequent commentary and opinion to the religious press. But, for my money, this book is at its best when Shaw presents the recent history of church social communications; his historical analysis should engage any reader.

Let me point particularly to Chapters 2 and 3 where Shaw investigates secrecy's ebb and flow in the handling of information by church leaders, especially from the time of the First Vatican Council (1869-70) up to our current decade, punctuated as it has been in the U.S. by the clergy sex abuse crisis.

Shaw became a top communications official for the U.S. bishops in 1969. The Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960s "generated enormous journalistic interest in the church," he recalls.

Yet, in his new position he found that "the relationship between the bishops and the media appeared headed for an all-time low." The reasons why make for a compelling reading.

In "Nothing to Hide," Shaw states that he writes as "a conservative Catholic" committed to his church's welfare and convinced that "the abuse of secrecy is bad for it."

Shaw informs readers, however, that many fellow conservatives appear not to share his concern about church secrecy. His writing, he also notes, incorporates "many anecdotes," which "add up to a disturbing picture."

I felt, indeed, that many anecdotes he selected to illustrate his concerns for the church had a distinctly conservative flavor themselves.

"Nothing to Hide" addresses not only secrecy, but what Shaw calls its



"cousins." They include "stonewalling, happy talk, deception, failure to consult, the de facto suppression of public opinion, the rejection of accountability, the repudiation of shared responsibility on clericalist grounds."

Shaw is clearly concerned about clericalism. He thinks that "for the clericalist culture, secrecy was the only conceivable response" when the clergy sex abuse crisis erupted; but secrecy "allowed a serious problem to become a disaster for abuse victims, for innocent priests who found themselves tarred with the same brush as their guilty brothers, for confused, frightened bishops and eventually for the whole church."

Special aspects of contemporary social communications arise quite naturally in the course of this book. I found something Shaw said about name-calling of interest, though briefly mentioned.

I've noticed in my own work as a church communicator that name-calling, in certain quarters on both left and right in the church, seems to have come into vogue as a means of dismissing points of view one doesn't share.

Shaw mentions name-calling when discussing Internet blogs. He says, "Every blogger is free to say very nearly whatever he wants, which often means questioning the motives of ideological opponents and calling them names." He suggests this isn't healthy or helpful for the church.

Secrecy is of concern well beyond the church. It is hard nowadays not to notice how often reporters ferret out and reveal information that some institution or other hoped to keep private.

My question, then: To what extent does secrecy even remain an option?

That question receives a response when Shaw quotes a letter from an elderly bishop who, speaking of the church's sex abuse crisis, told him that "when the dam of secrecy finally broke — as it always will — the whole church suffered for its lack of candor."

The bishop said, "More scandals come from attempting to control access to truth than ever came from honesty and openness."

Gibson was the founding editor of *Origins*, Catholic News Service's documentary service. He retired in 2007 after holding that post for 36 years.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 11, 2008

May 11, Pentecost Sunday

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Acts 2:1-11  
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Gospel: John 20:19-23

## God's spirit can reshape landscapes

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In April of 1994, a large and powerful tornado ripped through my hometown and the house where I had grown up, forcing my parents to take shelter in a stairway closet while the roof above them was lifted free of the structure and the nearby garage was torn from its concrete slab.

It also tore through the thick stand of mature pecan trees that for decades had divided our property from the neighbors', marking a clear path, making visible what had been previously hidden from view and changing the landscape forever.

The Hebrew Scriptures often relied on the metaphor of wind to signify the appearance of God in this same way. It was with a driving wind that Yahweh parted the waters of the Red Sea and opened up the path to the Promised Land for Israel. And while no rooftops were blown away in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, the changes wrought by that tempest were profound. People of all

nations were able to hear of the mighty acts of God in their own language.

The previous barriers of religion, language and ethnicity proved to be no match for the "driving wind" of the Spirit, and centuries-old barriers between Jew and Gentile would become obsolete in the wake of its power.

For those first disciples of Jesus, the "landscape" of their world was changed forever as they, in turn, were empowered to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all parts of the known world.

In our world today, global telecommunications and rapid travel have done away with geographic obstacles of distance that were previously insurmountable — and yet in an effort to protect our own "landscapes," we allow barriers to remain among one another, even within our own parishes and neighborhoods.

Fear of change and anxieties about letting those who are "different" into our world occupy our energies and sap our resources, drowning out the declaration of the mighty works of God in our midst.

The psalmist declares that when God sends out his Spirit, the "face of the earth" will be renewed. It is an open invitation to allow our landscape to be changed, through the power of his Spirit.

### Questions:

What recent changes have threatened the comfort of your own personal "landscape"? In what way can you welcome these changes as evidence of the movement of God's Spirit?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 4-10

**Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter)**, Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; **Monday**, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday**, Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday**, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday**, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday**, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday (Bl. Damien de Veuster)**, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 11-17

**Sunday (Pentecost)**, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday (St. Nereus, St. Achilleus, St. Pancras)**, James 1:1-11, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Fatima)**, James 1:12-18, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (St. Matthias)**, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Thursday (St. Isidore)**, James 2:1-9, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday**, James 2:14-24, 26, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday**, James 3:1-10, Mark 9:2-13.

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# Pope says music can bring hope to wounded world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Music can bring hope to a wounded humanity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At the end of an evening concert held in his honor April 24 to mark the third anniversary of the start of his pontificate, Pope Benedict said there is "a mysterious and deep kinship between music and hope, between song and eternal life."

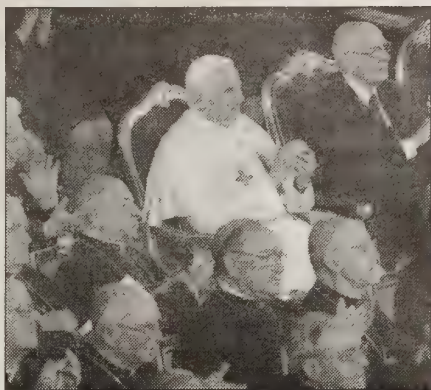
The musical arts, therefore, have enormous spiritual value and are called to "instill hope in the human spirit so scarred and at times wounded by earthly life," he said.

Milan's Giuseppe Verdi symphony orchestra and chorus performed works by Johannes Brahms, Ludwig van Beethoven and Luciano Berio in the Vatican's Paul VI hall to a large audience that included the pope's elder brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano, who sat next to the pope during the performance, offered the concert to the pope as a gift.

Pope Benedict told the audience the joy music and song bring is "a constant invitation to the faithful and people of good will to dedicate themselves to offer humanity a future rich with hope."

Any "authentic art" is just like prayer and never represents escapism from reality, he said.



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

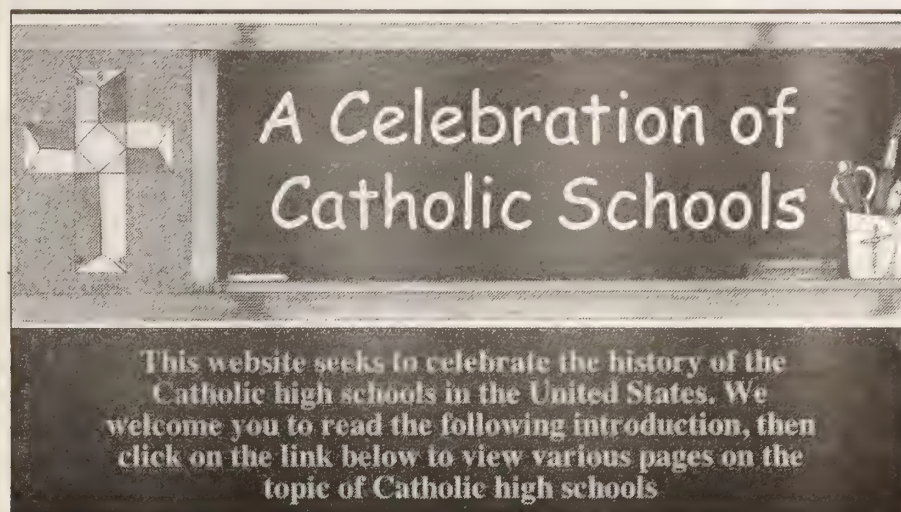
Pope Benedict XVI and Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano attend a concert marking the third anniversary of the pontiff's election at the Vatican April 24.

Rather the arts, like prayer, prompt people to improve the world and cultivate it so that it can bear the fruits of peace and goodness, he said.

Pope Benedict praised Italy's rich cultural and artistic heritage, urging the country to be an example to the rest of the world.

Young people need to learn about "authentic beauty" and have the opportunity to let art "refine their soul and guide them toward the building of a world that is open to spiritual ideals."

## Downloading the past



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CATHOLICSCHOOLDAYS.COM

Pictured is a screen grab from catholicschooldays.com, a Web site documenting U.S. Catholic high schools from about 1900 to present day. The site contains memorabilia from schools that have closed, like yearbooks, newspaper articles and vintage photographs.

## Web site chronicles Catholic high school days from long ago

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — If you're a 1943 graduate of Immaculate Conception Academy in Davenport, Iowa, and you lost your class photo, you're in luck.

Rita Piro has a copy.

In March, Piro launched catholicschooldays.com, a Web site documenting U.S. Catholic high schools from about 1900 to the present day.

The bulk of the site is devoted to memorabilia from schools that have closed, like yearbooks, newspaper articles and vintage photographs.

Piro came up with the idea in 2007 after writing a book on the history of her alma mater, the Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates, N.Y., where she chairs the foreign languages department.

"What has struck me the most is that people have all had the same reaction: Their experience has been so different from what is portrayed," she said.

"Catholic school was such an important thing, and they'll say, 'If it weren't for them I wouldn't be the person I am,'" said Piro.

She said she has listed every Catholic high school that existed in 1965, and about 90 percent of those before 1965.

Schools currently in operation have their own section, with links to Web sites and Wikipedia entries.

The "Vintage News and Photos" section includes artifacts from schools both open and closed.

"Nun Better" offers information on female congregations and their habits, and "The Catholic Alphabet" features Latin phrases and Catholic school prayers.

Piro pored through diocesan records, church archives and local newspapers for most of her content.

Examples of her sleuthing include a 1960 Associated Press story headlined "Catholic School Curbs Youths Who 'Go Steady'" and a 1928 article on St. Benedict's Prep School of Newark, N.J., winning the Catholic school football championship.

Piro does not accept advertising, preferring to pay for Web hosting and other expenses herself.

She trolls eBay daily for yearbooks, class rings and other artifacts, even hitting upon an 1898 school newspaper from Roman Catholic High in Philadelphia.

As the site has picked up traffic, with more than 34,000 visitors since its debut March 24, Catholic school alumni have sent in contributions, which Piro photographs or scans and then posts. Some also send in historical information and personal reflections.

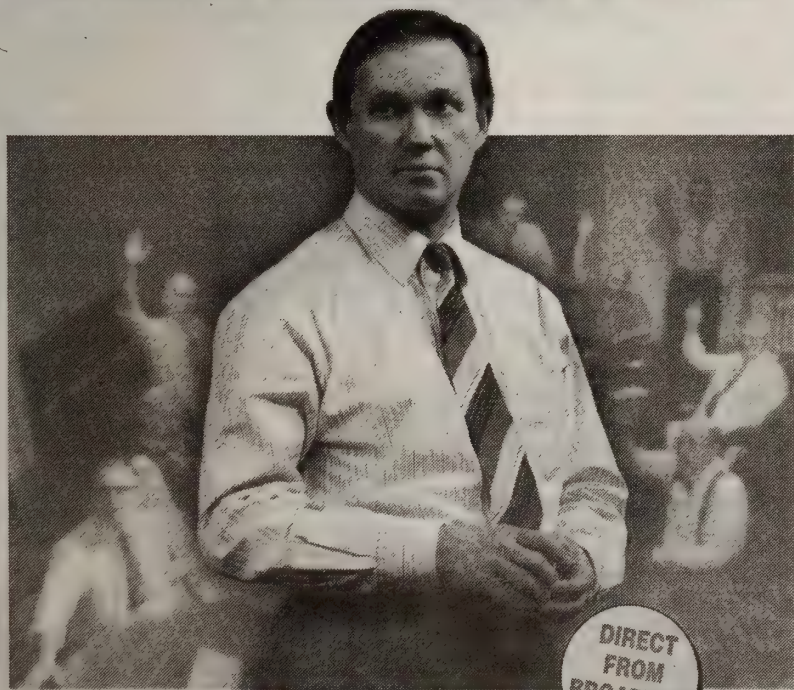
Piro said she has received the most material from Pennsylvania and Ohio, with Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, New York, California, Texas, West Virginia and Michigan also making a strong showing.

"They say nostalgia kicks in around 50, 55, so you have a lot of boomers surfing the net," said Piro.

"I have people telling me, 'I put in the name of my high school, and this site came up.' They're happy to know the name of their school is somewhere for the record," she said.

Editor's note: Those with material to contribute may e-mail Piro at [oripier@aol.com](mailto:oripier@aol.com).

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## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

*For the month of May, here are some historical facts about Archbishop John Francis Donoghue, who was the second bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.*



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bishop Michael J. Begley (left), the first bishop of Charlotte, welcomes then-Bishop-elect (now Archbishop) John F. Donoghue to the Diocese of Charlotte in this November 1984 photograph.

### Biographical facts

- Born Aug. 9, 1928 in Washington, D.C.
- Ordained June 4, 1955 at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C.
- Consecrated bishop of Charlotte Dec. 18, 1984
- Installed as archbishop of Atlanta Aug. 19, 1993
- Retired Dec. 9, 2004

### During his time as bishop of Charlotte

- The number of Catholics in the diocese grew from 70,000 to 94,000, and 24 parishes and missions were added;
- The first and only Charlotte Diocesan Synod was held September 1986-May 1987;
- The Catholic schools in Mecklenburg County underwent regionalization, and MACS (Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools) was created;
- The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory was constructed;
- St. Lawrence Church in Asheville was elevated to rank of minor basilica.

### Coat of arms as bishop of Charlotte

**Motto:** "To Live in Christ Jesus" (adapted from Philippians 1:21)

**Shield:** Celtic cross honoring the patron saint of Charlotte cathedral, St. Patrick; crown honoring Queen Charlotte; white cross with fleur-de-lis at each end honoring the bishop's namesake, St. John Vianney, and Mary, the mother of Jesus; ermine on the shield honors Bishop Donoghue's long association with Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle, former archbishop of Washington, D.C.

### Interesting facts

Archbishop Donoghue promoted eucharistic adoration wherever he went and, under his watch, perpetual adoration began in the Diocese of Charlotte. It first started at St. Lawrence Church in Asheville, following at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

As archbishop of Atlanta, he practiced what he preached by participating in perpetual adoration at the cathedral every Thursday at 1 a.m.

## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

The Accounting Department at the Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a full-time Staff Accountant. This position is primarily responsible for journal entries, month-end closing, financial statement preparation, bank reconciliations and monitoring investments. This position works closely with the Senior Staff Accountant for the Diocese. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and 2-3 years of related experience with excellent computer skills – specifically with Excel. Experience with Blackbaud software would be a plus. EOE.

Resume and salary history should be e-mailed by May 7, 2008 to [sgnell@charlottediocese.org](mailto:sgnell@charlottediocese.org) or mailed to: Controller, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

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### Middle-School Youth Minister

St. Mark Church, a northern suburb of Charlotte, NC is seeking a full-time Middle-School Youth Minister to work with the middle-school youth in our parish of 3,500 families. Applicants must be both a college graduate and practicing Catholic with a strong understanding of Church teachings and youth ministry experience in a Catholic parish. Experience with the Life Teen and/or EDGE model is a plus. Applicant must have strong communication and organizational skills and be able to work collaboratively with the DRE and Life Teen Youth Minister. Salary based on experience and qualifications.

### Coordinator of Youth Ministry

St. Mark Church, a Life Teen parish in the northern suburbs of Charlotte, is looking for a Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This position potentially reaches out to over 750+ high school students in several high schools in the area and includes all components of Comprehensive Youth Ministry as outlined in the USCCB document Renewing the Vision – Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care and Prayer and Worship. Applicants must be an active member of a Roman Catholic parish faith community, have a bachelor's degree in theology or a related field, and have youth ministry experience in a Catholic parish. Experience with the Life Teen model is a plus.

**To apply for these positions** – please send resume with cover letter along with contact information for 3 references by May 15th to Donna F. Smith, 14740 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC 28078 or email: [dsmith18@bellsouth.net](mailto:dsmith18@bellsouth.net).

## Classifieds

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## Honored for serving and protecting



COURTESY PHOTO

Grand Knight Jim Martin (right) is pictured with award recipients during the Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council 939's safety forces awards night at the Knight's Club in Greensboro April 19. The annual event honors selected law enforcement and medical personnel in the Greensboro area. Pictured (from left) are paramedic Eric Lee Whitehead, police officer Ben Wingfield, firefighter Andy Jones and Martin. The winners were selected by their peers.

## A cut above the rest



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Sampson (left), member of the Ladies Guild of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, and Dave Sampson (center), grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 10891, are pictured with Bunny Schoolcraft, operations manager of Vocational Opportunities, and Keith Stanley, a "self-advocate," at Vocational Opportunities in Asheboro.

In February, the Ladies Guild and Knights of Columbus both provided special paper cutters to be used in making custom-made note pads by self-advocates who work at Vocational Opportunities, a program of ARC of Stanly County, a nonprofit organization that assists people with mental retardation and other disabilities. The note pads are made for baskets made for the program's gift shop. Council 10891 purchased the first paper cutter for the program in 1995.

## Honored homecoming



COURTESY PHOTO

Transitional Deacon Benjamin Roberts (center) is pictured with members of Knights of Columbus Council 7152 during a meeting at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville March 29. Deacon Roberts, a parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle Church who is currently studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania, was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Peter J. Jugis in Charlotte earlier that day.

## Battling over books



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Pictured is the team of middle school students from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro which is Region 9 winner of the Battle of the Books competition at St. Timothy School in Raleigh March 10. As winner, the team competed in the regional championships April 18. If successful, they again will compete in the state championship at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May.

The competition is sponsored by the N.C. School Library Media Association. Students at participating schools read books from a list established by the state Battle of the Books committee, and then compete in quiz-bowl-style tournaments to test their knowledge of these books.

Pictured above are (front row, from left) Katelyn Merendino, Michaela Dimoff, Kable Young, Jonah Carmichael, Tamlin Cermak-Serfass, Marie Petrangeli; (back row, from left) Stratton Barth, Mrs. Lisa Saintsing, Alexander Valitutto, Alex Bruno, Jorge Cortes, John Scott, Andrew Saintsing, Ms. Doris Melson and Mrs. Meg Scott.

Below: Pictured is the team of students from St. Pius X School in Greensboro who competed in Battle of the Books competition at St. Timothy School in Raleigh March 10. The team met weekly since September to discuss and quiz themselves on the 26 books selected by the competition committee. This was the second year St. Pius X School students competed in a Battle of the Books competition.

Pictured are (front row) Brian Clark, David Yang, Spencer Hodges, Sam Nemeth, Matthew Carnaghi; (back row) Joe Book, Allison Lizotte, Kathryn Payne, Erin Liebal, Caroline Caporossi. Not pictured: Hailey Diaz.



COURTESY PHOTO



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The pope's transforming message of hope

*Holy Father reawakens us to realities of faith, God's plan*

It has been noted that Pope Benedict XVI has profound respect for the American order. Here's a country that is widely religious and yet respectful of the separation of church and state.

But he also sees a shortcoming:

"Perhaps America's brand of secularism poses a particular problem: It allows for professing belief in God and respects the public role of religion and the churches, but at the same time it can subtly reduce religious belief to a lowest common denominator. Faith becomes a passive acceptance that certain things 'out there' are true, but without practical relevance for everyday life."

The antidote is not to have religion just be a generalized bromide but to be premised upon a full understanding of how nothing in life can be truly divorced from God the Creator and his saving plan.

In other words, faith is not an irrelevancy. It is life itself. What does that practically mean?

1. Being Catholic requires an interior conversion, a submission to Christ. To "think with the church" is neither to memorize dogma in a superficial way nor pick and choose among Catholic beliefs as if they were a political party platform.

Here, the church must be a more regular and engaging teacher proposing with charity a fuller understanding of the magisterium. More than a 15-minute homiletic reflection upon the Scripture reading is required.

Reading groups, a vibrant parish lecture series and parish-based social outreach could all help.

2. While it's always important for a culture to try to have its civil law reflect natural law principles, Catholics for too long have directed their efforts toward changing the membership on the Supreme Court or amending this statute or another as its primary mission.

Overruling *Roe v. Wade*, while fully warranted under the law of the original Constitution, saves not a single life.

Lives are saved when the beauty of sexual intimacy within marriage is taught, when motherhood is affirmed, when parishes are prepared to openly and warmly support a woman facing the still real cultural stigma of giving birth without marriage, or when the economic needs of a single mother are addressed generously.

When the Gospel is really put into choosing life in a concrete and personal sense, the "dictatorship of relativism" — that argues that men have the power to redefine life — is proven false.

3. "Much remains to be done, particularly on the level of preaching and catechesis in parishes and schools, if the new evangelization is to bear fruit for the

## Faith & Presedent

DOUGLAS W. KMEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



renewal of ecclesial life in America."

Yes, yes, yes. Catholic elementary schools still remain the best hope for extending the teaching of the church as a way of life beyond the liturgy.

It is said that without a presence of religious sisters, our parochial schools cannot be sustained, but that overlooks resources both economic and human. The U.S. Supreme Court has long eliminated any constitutional objection to school vouchers.

Where is the nationwide Catholic movement to demand that public resources be allocated to parents directly rather than devoted to the monopoly support of the secularizing public school?

And in terms of human resource, we are an aging population with many of us nearing retirement but still very much wanting to stay in service to our fellow man. How wonderful it would be if Catholic seniors were given multiple opportunities by their parishes to volunteer their time to teach in Catholic schools. As I see it, this would give us one of the finest faculties in the land and in the process strengthen the intergenerational family.

Thank you, Holy Father, for coming to America, reawakening us to the possibilities — no, the practical realities — of a faith-filled hope.

## Values for boys, girls

As chairwoman of Pure Fashion in Charlotte, I strongly agree with the April 25 letter to the editor ("Pure Fashion values needed for men, also") that young girls are not the only ones who need to be taught the importance of living lives of dignity — this message is universal and applies to young and old, male and female.

While the Pure Fashion formation program is designed for and focused on young women, the recent fashion show was attended by a wide cross-section of interested individuals from the Charlotte community. Yet, Pure Fashion is not meant to be the answer to everything. It is only a catalyst to address the issue of immodesty in our culture.

Pure Fashion empowers young women and teaches them how to spread

## Pope Benedict addresses the nations

*Human rights, dignity must be respected*

Standing before representatives of nearly every country on earth gathered in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, Pope Benedict XVI said, "The promotion of human rights remains the most effective strategy for eliminating the inequality among countries and social groups as well as helping increase safety."

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the pope said that this declaration reflects the desire "to place the human person at the heart of institutions, laws and the workings of society."

But in reality the human person is very often not at the heart of institutions, laws and the workings of society.

Legalized abortion, crushing poverty, painful hunger, filthy water, environmental degradation, heartless corporations, sweatshop labor and war all point to a national and global mindset that largely views the human person not as "the high point of God's creative design," as Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed in his U.N. address, but instead as a disposable means of corporate greed and governmental apathy.

For this to change, for societies to become truly civilized — where each person's human rights are fully respected and guaranteed — it will take deeply committed action on the part of Catholic Christians and all people of good will.

Pope Benedict reminded the ambassadors that "human rights, then, must be respected as an expression of justice, and not merely because they are enforceable through the will of the legislators."

So what exactly are these human rights?

A good summary of these God-given rights is found in Article 25 of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and

## Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

When human rights are ignored or denied, not only is the dignity of the human person violated, but additionally, the seeds of terrorism are planted.

The pope highlighted this fact to the ambassadors of the world's governments when he said, "Victims of poverty and desperation and whose human dignity is violated with impunity are easy prey for the call to violence and can become the first people to violate the peace."

Pope Benedict's U.N. speech very much reflected his ongoing teaching that the violence of war must give way to respectful dialogue that leads to the promotion of human rights and global solidarity.

Papal visits are spiritual shots-in-the-arm! But unfortunately, their positive results largely tend to be short-lived. After the euphoria wears off, much of the Catholic Church in the U.S. pretty much returns to a more sedate existence.

Let's not let that happen this time!

On the final day of his U.S. visit, Pope Benedict prayed at the New York site of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He asked God to "comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all."

Amen!

## Letters to the Editor

the message of modesty, true beauty and dignity found in Jesus Christ. They embrace the vision that they are important and critical agents for change in our society. All those who participated in Pure Fashion Charlotte 2008 believe that by working together we can impact the world, sowing seeds of virtue and modesty "one outfit at a time."

I encourage the writer to initiate a unique program for young men. From what I've learned over the past two years, there will be a groundswell of support. Hopefully, the dialogue that has begun with young women can continue throughout our families and community.

— Kathy Comer  
Charlotte

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Becoming Christ-like, especially in old age

*Loving God means loving yourself and accepting his plan for you*

Many adults have an egocentric philosophy of life. They are loners who become self-contained, putting their own convenience above the well-being of others.

During Pope Benedict XVI's visit in April, he said that freedom of conscience is a good thing, but only as long as we don't allow ourselves to reach the point of going against God's will because of it.

Some people take such good care of themselves that they never think of the Father's will as an essential part of finding peace and happiness, or as an essential component of attaining salvation.

Unfortunately, a selfish life resembles a seed that never breaks open.

We are all self-centered at birth, but God calls us to be generous. Jesus came to lead us out of the stagnation of selfish living. He came to save us from ourselves.

The verb "to save" comes from the Greek and means "to keep safe and whole." Jesus wants us to change our survival strategy into something new and different.

When he said, "In order to save your

life, you must lose it," he was saying that a seed must die if it is to flower one day.

Jesus saw everything as coming from the Father, both the good things that happen and the bad. For instance, during his passion and crucifixion Jesus didn't blame Judas or Pilate or the Romans or even the Jews who shouted for his crucifixion.

He did something entirely unexpected; he saw the whole catastrophe as coming from his Father's will.

Jesus announced his purpose when he said, "I have come to do the will of him who sent me." His spirit of obedience was key to his personality. He accepted the bad and the good as part of his mission in life.

Doesn't it follow that if you want to become Christ-like you have to adopt a similar attitude by letting go of your fears and turning yourself over to the Lord?

Make obedience to the Father's will your supreme goal in life. The next time you look in the mirror, ask yourself: Do I see the aging process with all its miseries as part of God's will for me?

Yes, the self-preservation instinct is a good thing, and taking care of your body is very important, but don't let it

# Irony Supreme Court action during pope's visit

*Catholics must work to abolish death penalty, support culture of life*

I woke up on the morning of April 17 knowing this would be an emotional day for me. It was the birthday of my son John and the second day of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S.

I have felt a special connection to this Holy Father ever since February of 1994 when I met him in Jerusalem at a very special conference for Christians and Jews worldwide. I had the chance to shake his hand, ask him to pray for my deceased son John and then take his photo. I was so honored.

He did not know, of course, that John and his wife Nancy had been shot to death six months earlier by an 18-year-old invader in their home.

So on April 17, after some special prayers, I turned on the TV and picked up The New York Times. I was surprised to see no headlined story or photo of our Holy Father.

Instead I became distressed when I read: "Justices Uphold Lethal Injection in Kentucky Case." What had been challenged in Kentucky was not the killing itself in a death penalty case but whether lethal injection as a killing method constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

The Supreme Court ruled in a 7-2 decision that even if there is much pain, Kentucky — and, thus, of course, other

states — can continue using this method for killing death-row inmates.

Chief Justice John Roberts, a Catholic, explained the court's controlling decision, saying, "Simply because an execution method may result in pain, either by accident or as an inescapable consequence of death, does not establish the sort of 'objectively intolerable risk of harm' that qualifies as 'cruel and unusual' under the Eighth Amendment."

Equally disturbing was the quote from another Catholic, Justice Antonin Scalia, responding to Justice John Paul Stevens, who supported the judgment of the court while speaking against capital punishment itself:

"But of all Justice Stevens's criticisms of the death penalty, the hardest to take is his bemoaning of 'the enormous costs that death penalty litigation imposes on society,' including the 'burden on the courts and the lack of finality for victims' families.'"

I wanted to shout out to him what my older sister said about the death penalty: "You can't get peace from something that ugly!"

How different are Justice Scalia's words from those of top Vatican official Cardinal Renato Martino, who spoke last September in Rome on the pastoral care of prisoners.

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



become your supreme goal. Don't fight your destiny. Accept your own death and be free of fear.

Better to adopt a spirit of cheerful acquiescence to the whole process than to curse the darkness.

Do yourself a favor: Accept life as it comes, day by day. In the process of keeping yourself healthy, accept your duty to help others along the way. Don't become a recluse. Get out!

Risk exposing yourself to the germs of those less fortunate than you. Otherwise you will be like the seed that never broke open, never died and flowered.

The supreme law says this: Love God and neighbor as you love yourself. To love self, you have to learn to love your body. That means you must accept the aging process as part of God's plan for you. Even when life takes you down the scary road of old age, surrender with a gentle smile.

Pain is good if it helps you to become more aware of the needs of others. Reach out to help them. Accept your destiny with dignity and grace. Be charitable as you bow before the Father, surrendering to his will.

# Pope says trip to U.S. was opportunity to give, receive hope, faith

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Reflecting on his recent visit to the United States during his April 30 weekly general audience, Pope Benedict XVI said the trip was an opportunity to give and receive a witness to the power of hope and faith.

The pope began his general audience by publicly thanking the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and President George W. Bush for inviting him, and all those who greeted him with affection and offered prayers for the success of his visit.

Addressing the 20,000 people who had gathered in St. Peter's Square for the audience, the pope said he set out on the trip "to confirm Catholics in the faith, to renew and increase brotherhood with all Christians and to proclaim to all the message of Christ our hope."

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My recent apostolic journey to the United Nations and the United States of America was inspired by the theme, "Christ our Hope." I am most grateful to all who helped in any way to make the journey a success.

My visit was meant to encourage the Catholic community in America, especially our young people, to bear consistent witness to the faith, and to carry on the church's mission, especially with regard to education and concern for the poor.

American society traditionally values religious freedom and the need for faith to play its part in building a sound civic life. In my meetings with President Bush, and with Christian leaders and representatives of other religions, I reaffirmed the church's commitment to cooperation in the service of understanding, peace and spiritual values.

My address to the United Nations stressed the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which grounds respect for human dignity in a universally valid ethical order.

In a particular way, my visit to Ground Zero, charged with sober silence and prayer, was a moving testimony to the hope which is stronger than evil and death.

I ask all of you to join me in praying that this visit will bear abundant spiritual fruit for the growth of the faith in America and for the unity and peace of the whole human family.

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



Appealing for the life of a death-row inmate in Texas, he called the death penalty an "inhumane and ineffective form of punishment that also impoverishes the society that legitimizes and practices it."

I think it is important for Catholics to be reminded that the U.S. bishops have emphasized that we must be a "culture of life," calling for an end to the death penalty.

Another serious reason for ending the death penalty is the possibility that an innocent person may be executed. Since 1973, 127 people have been released from death row because evidence of their innocence was found.

My children and I appealed to the judge not to seek the death penalty for the killer of John and Nancy. For as my daughter Mary testified:

"Anguished cries for vengeance poison our own hearts and minds. ... Hatred doesn't heal. Mercy, compassion, moving on with life, turning toward good people, walking into the light of love as much as possible, that's what victims need."

"And our lawmakers have the capacity to help us do that by abolishing the death penalty and along with it the fantasy that it will make the pain go away."



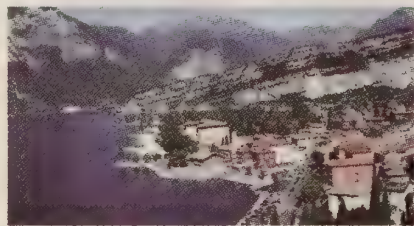


CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Maria Talome, 18-month-old Dayo Tailor, Dorothy (who didn't give her last name) and Cordelia Ukeekwe wait for food inside the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington April 23. The Catholic Worker movement marked its 75th anniversary May 1.

Save \$150\* on trip and insurance with early registration!

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

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\*per person with double occupancy

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

# Bettering the world, 'little by little'

## Catholic Worker Movement marks 75th anniversary without fanfare

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Seventy-fifth anniversary or not, lunch still must be served at the New York Catholic Worker's Maryhouse. Hungry people will be waiting, as they are every day.

Jane Sammon knows the routine: hospitality, meals, conversation, responding in whatever way possible to people in need. She's been at Maryhouse for nearly 36 years, arriving in the summer of 1972 from Cleveland to live a life of voluntary poverty and personal sacrifice with a deep commitment to the works of mercy.

It's a way of life many admire but few venture to try.

Maryhouse is a place where the world is made better for people "little by little," as Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day often would say, recalling the example of St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus.

It's a place where people are readily welcomed and their human dignity is uplifted. Day wanted a place where Christ would feel at home.

"It's an amazing thing that really has very little to do with us," said Sammon, 60. "It's the grace of God that keeps us going."

Maryhouse on East Third Street in New York's Bowery and St. Joseph House two blocks away on East First Street are the flagship communities of the Catholic Worker Movement, which turned 75 May 1.

The movement today encompasses more than 180 houses of hospitality in the United States including a few small farms. Another 18 houses are in Canada, Mexico, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand.

Over the years, the movement has grown considerably, with the number of houses doubling since Day's Nov. 29, 1980, death. The notion that the movement would founder once the hard-driving Day passed away has long since been dispelled.

Author Jim Forest, who worked alongside Day in New York in the 1960s and 1970s and has written extensively about her life, relates a story reflecting her view about the movement's future.

Asked in 1973 if she thought the movement would survive her, Day answered, "Why shouldn't it? It has already survived more than 40 years of me."

### From depression to hope

The movement was born on the streets of Depression-laden New York City May 1, 1933, when Day and friend Peter Maurin published and sold — at a penny a copy, the price it's still going for today — The Catholic Worker, a newspaper focusing on the social

teachings of the church and advocating for the poor and displaced workers.

As circulation grew rapidly it took just six months for Day and Maurin to establish the first Catholic Worker house of hospitality in a walk-up apartment with space for 10 homeless women. The movement grew quickly in Manhattan and spread across the country.

Today, Catholic Worker houses are as diverse as the people running them. Each house is autonomous with no formal rules except to carry out the works of mercy: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the sick, burying the dead.

Hospitality takes many forms, from storefront drop-in centers to comfortable places for people to lay their heads at night. Some communities welcome people with AIDS or HIV.

Others accept single mothers and their children or homeless men, many facing addictions or mental illness.

In Stillwater, Minn., Solanus Casey House welcomes homeless mothers and their children in two restored 19th-century houses.

"It's an utterly ordinary thing we do," house founder Tom Loomer told the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington April 18. "It is called Christianity. It is not original what we do. At least we hope it's not original."

Later, he told Catholic News Service that the community's efforts are hardly social work.

"Social workers are not in the business of passing out love. That's where communities like ours come in," Loomer said.

"So many of the traditional works of mercy have been institutionalized and taken over by professionals or by the government. We don't simply direct them to the county to stand in line and get a number. To do it personally, that's Dorothy Day's philosophy of personalism," he said.

It's the philosophy of personalism — taking personal responsibility for someone in need — that guides each Catholic Worker community.

Joe May Sr., a Catholic Worker who helps run the Peter Maurin Center in Akron, Ohio, said being in touch directly with the people being served has its benefits.

"You don't have bureaucracy," he said, citing his community's focus on welcoming Hispanic mothers and their children in three houses of hospitality. "We have to find out from the people what is needed. Before we say what we're going to do, we ask what is needed."

Catholic Workers like Sammon say the work can be done by anyone — Christian or otherwise — who understands the call to be merciful.

"You don't need a Catholic Worker to do what we're doing," Sammon said.





## In the wake of nature's fury

*Pope appeals for  
mercy, generosity  
for suffering cyclone  
victims*

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI appealed to the world community to be merciful and generous by offering aid and working to relieve the suffering caused by Cyclone Nargis, which killed tens of thousands in Myanmar.

During his May 7 general audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope called on people to open their hearts "to compassion and generosity so that with the collaboration of all who are able and want to lend help, the suffering caused by this huge tragedy can be alleviated."

When the pope spoke, more than 22,000 people had been killed, 41,000 were missing and 1 million were homeless

See CYCLONE, page 5

## Driven to serve



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, drives to the church after celebrating Mass at Charlotte Catholic High School April 2. He said he enjoys ministering to youths because "I feel like I have a tremendous opportunity to impact the future."

## An inside look at the daily lives, faith of two diocesan priests

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

AND KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — His day began, as it typically does, at 5 a.m.

From 5:30-6:30 a.m., before many people are even awake, Msgr. John McSweeney prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. Every morning begins with prayer, he said.

"To be efficient, a priest has to be a prayerful person," he affirmed. "I give my day to the Lord. I tell him, 'Whatever happens today is yours. Use me.'"

He then went on to celebrate the 7 a.m. Mass.

"And then the venture starts," said Msgr. McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church

See PRIESTS, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesse Manibusan, a Catholic signer and songwriter, performs during the Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest April 26.

## Heroic in faith

*Youths explore God-given  
'superpowers' during conference*

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

RIDGECREST — Youths from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered to pray, sing and celebrate their gifts from God.

"Chosen by God, Hero by Choice" was the theme for the 31st annual Diocesan Youth Conference, held at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest April 25-27.

Approximately 200 high school-age teens attended the event, which was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

"It is a grace to participate in, as well as witness and sponsor, an event where young people gather in the name of what's true and good and holy

See YOUTHS, page 13

## Positive response

*Poll shows pope's visit  
influenced attitudes  
toward church, faith*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS  
SERVICE

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Pope Benedict XVI's U.S. visit impacted public attitudes toward the pope, the church and people's willingness to live their faith more fully,

See POPE, page 7

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### Helping the homeless

*Sister of Mercy offers insights  
into combating homelessness*

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*Author on losing, regaining  
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### Colorful conviction

*Swiss Guards show loyalty to  
church doesn't change*

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## SAINTLY INTERVENTION



CNS PHOTO BY ANNA WEAVER, HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

Audrey Toguchi holds a picture of Blessed Damien de Veuster at her home in Alea, Hawaii, May 1. Toguchi was cured of cancer nine years ago after she prayed to Blessed Damien, the Belgian missionary who cared for the Hansen's disease patients of Molokai, Hawaii, and who died of the disease in 1889.

## Vatican theologians see miracle in Hawaiian woman's cancer cure

HONOLULU (CNS) — Theological consultants to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes have ruled that the cancer cure of a Hawaiian woman was due to Blessed Damien de Veuster's intercession, Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva announced April 29.

The decision represents a major step forward in Father de Veuster's cause for canonization. The final actions required to declare the priest a saint are the endorsement of the congregation's committee of cardinals and bishops and the approval of the pope.

Father de Veuster, the 19th-century Belgian missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary who spent the final 16 years of his life caring for the Hansen's disease patients on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai, was beatified in 1995 in Belgium by Pope John Paul II.

In his announcement, Bishop Silva included the name of the Oahu woman, Audrey Toguchi, whose cancer disappeared a decade ago after she began prayers to Father de Veuster that included pilgrimages to Kalaupapa where the priest worked and died.

It was the first time the diocese had made her name public.

Toguchi, in a May 1 interview with the Hawaii Catholic Herald, Honolulu diocesan newspaper, said that when she first learned she had cancer "I put everything in God's hands."

She decided to pray to Father de Veuster, who had given his own life in service to others.

"Father Damien is not going to let me go," she thought at the time.

The sainthood process generally requires two miracles, one for beatification and one for canonization.

An alleged miracle — usually a healing — must overcome two hurdles. First, medical experts must declare it dramatic and unexplainable. Next, theologians must determine that it was caused through the intercession of the candidate for sainthood.

In Father de Veuster's case, the medical commission of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes ruled last October that the healing was "unexplainable according to available medical knowledge." In this latest judgment, the theological consultants determined that the cure was attributable to Father de Veuster.

The cure in question involved the disappearance of cancer, without treatment, from Toguchi's lungs in 1999. The case was documented in an article about "complete spontaneous regression of cancer" published in the October 2000 issue of the Hawaii Medical Journal.

According to the article, three malignant lung tumors were discovered by X-ray in September 1998. Upon learning of her condition, Toguchi began praying to Father de Veuster and visiting Kalaupapa.

Before therapy could be applied, an X-ray a month later showed that the tumors had decreased in size.

Monthly X-rays revealed further shrinkage until scans in May and October 1999 could find no sign of the cancer. The doctor's report stated that the "lung metastases disappeared with no therapy at all."

## Church recognizes 17th-century Marian apparitions in France

LAUS, France (CNS) — The Catholic Church has officially recognized 17th-century Marian apparitions to a 17-year-old peasant girl in a southern Alpine village in France.

"Three centuries have passed since Benoite Rencurel testified ... about what Christ and Mary, his mother, had revealed concerning God's love for men, as well as his infinite mercy and his appeal for conversion," Archbishop Georges Pontier of Marseille, France, said during a May 4 Mass at the Marian basilica in the town of Laus.

"Here, as in Lourdes, as in La Salette, as in Fatima, we see Mary pursuing her mission to reveal her son and invite us to do all he tells us," he told more than 6,000 people at the Mass.

A decree recognizing the "supernatural origin of the apparitions and of facts lived and recounted by the young shepherdess" between 1664 and 1718 was read at the Mass by Bishop Jean-Michel di Falco Leandri of Gap, France.

In late 2003, Bishop di Falco Leandri set up a panel of seven historians, theologians and psychologists to study the apparitions. In 2006 the panel's findings were sent to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which raised no objection to the recognition of the visions.

The apparitions are the first approved by the French church since apparitions to St. Bernardette Soubirous at Lourdes were officially recognized in 1862.

After four months of daily apparitions in 1664, Rencurel said Mary had asked her to build a church and house for priests. She later claimed similar visions while ministering to pilgrims and penitents as a lay Dominican tertiary in her home village.

Numerous cures were later claimed by sick visitors who were treated with a special oil.

Bishop di Falco Leandri also relaunched a canonization process for Rencurel in 2003.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A rosary is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — "The Moral Alternative to Contraception, An Introduction to Natural Family Planning" (NFP) will be presented at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Road, May 15, 7-8:30 p.m., in classrooms 1 & 2 of the Msgr. Allen Center. Judy Townsend, a trained counselor and instructor of NFP, will present and share her expertise. Couples are highly encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Danielle Mathis at [tmathis3@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tmathis3@carolina.rr.com).

CHARLOTTE — There will be an introduction to the Mass in the extraordinary form at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Wednesday, May 21, 7 - 8:15 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the traditional liturgy is welcome to attend. The Mass in the extraordinary form will be celebrated at St. Ann Church on Saturdays at 8 a.m., beginning May 31. If you would like more information please contact James Blake at [jrlake@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jrlake@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 551-0686.

CHARLOTTE — The Compassionate Friends of Charlotte meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The organization is a support group for parents who have lost a child, regardless of cause of death or age of the child. The group meets at 7 p.m. in room 234. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Donna or Ralph Goodrich at (804) 882-4503 or

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — In honor of the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give a talk at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W., Sunday, June 8 at 3 p.m. Following the talk, P.G.A. life member and Immaculate Conception Church parishioner Ron Garcia will testify to how his asthma and allergies were miraculously cured by water from Lourdes. A question and answer session will follow, along with a reception. All are welcome to attend, there is no charge. For more information, call Ron Garcia at (828) 696-8163.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope says Christians have fundamental duty to work for peace, justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians have a fundamental responsibility to work for peace and justice, which is tied inseparably to their mission to proclaim the Gospel, Pope Benedict XVI said.

This social aspect of the faith is crucial as humanity faces new and important challenges in the 21st century, including economic justice and environmental protection, he said.

The pope made the remarks May 3 in a speech to members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The academy was meeting to discuss Catholic social teaching and the common good.

The pope said the technical aspects of social justice must be understood by Catholics in a framework of faith.

"The responsibility of Christians to work for peace and justice, their irrevocable commitment to build up the common good, is inseparable from their mission to proclaim the gift of eternal life to which God has called every man and

woman," he said.

The concept of solidarity, he said, has a special meaning for Christians. It calls upon them to humble themselves, not merely to seek a situation of social parity.

"Jesus commands us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, to love our neighbor as ourselves," he said.

"In this sense, true solidarity — though it begins with an acknowledgment of the equal worth of the other — comes to fulfillment only when I willingly place my life at the service of the other," he said.

"Herein lies the 'vertical' dimension of solidarity: I am moved to make myself less than the other so as to minister to his or her needs," he said.

The pope said the principle of "subsidiarity" — the idea that social tasks should be handled by the smallest and simplest organization that can do so competently — reflects the natural desire for self-governance.

ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Prayer and Discernment*" June 8, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public?

Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## God made pre-humans into people, Vatican newspaper says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While apes evolved naturally into pre-human creatures, it was the will and desire of God that turned them into humans, an article in the Vatican newspaper said.

"The formation of human beings necessitated a particular contribution by God, though it remains that their emergence was brought about by natural causes" of evolution, it said.

The article, published in the May 5-6 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, was written by Italian evolutionary biologist Fiorenzo Facchini.

The article said that, "when the biological conditions necessary for supporting a being capable of reflective thought were attained, the will of God, the creator, freely desired it, and man came to be."

The article posed the question: Does this mean that humans evolved from chimpanzees?

"No, it might be better to say that at some point God willed a spark of intelligence to light up in the mind of a nonhuman hominid and thus came into existence the human as a being, as a subject capable of thought and the ability to decide freely," it said.

So rather than picturing it as humans

descending from the apes, it said, humans ascended or rose up from the animal kingdom to a higher level, thanks to the hand of God.

As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in 1968 when he was Father Joseph Ratzinger, God wanted to create a being that could know him and be able to turn to him, the article said.

The emergence of the human is neither a casual or accidental event, nor is it something that was "strictly necessary," demanded by God or the evolutionary process, it said.

Evolution could have ended at the pre-human stage, it said, but thanks to "the free choice of God," humans emerged from their pre-human ancestors.

This divine intervention "does not represent an unwarranted intrusion (of theology) in the field of science — as is the case with intelligent design — but is called for in order to explain the presence of man's spirit" which cannot come from or evolve out of the material world, the article said.

The movement from being a creature of the animal and physical world to also the spiritual was a gift from God "even if it came at the end of a natural process of evolution," it said.

## Summit of faith



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MAUNG

Two women rest at the third station of the cross during a climb to the top of Colorado Hill to celebrate Mass and the Day of the Holy Cross in Tijuana, Mexico, May 4. About 300 people made the climb to the summit in what has become a tradition in Tijuana for more than 30 years.

## National Migration Conference set for July

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The challenges and abuses faced by refugees, migrants, trafficking victims and other people on the move will be discussed during the National Migration Conference set for July 28-31 in Washington.

The conference is designed to increase public awareness on migration questions as well as to educate policymakers about the needs of people who do not have permanent homes.

Topics to be discussed include

global migration trends, identifying and supporting victims of traumatic events, immigration law and crimes, detention issues, ethnic information on new refugee people, and family-based immigration.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles will be among the speakers to address the Washington gathering.

The conference is sponsored by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network and the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**May 12 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville

**May 13 (11 a.m.)**  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**May 14 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Luke Church, Mint Hill

**May 16 (7 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Therese of Lisieux Church, Mooresville

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer



## To help those without homes



COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Mary Scullion addresses the 'Homeless Helping Homeless' group following lunch at the Urban Ministry Center May 1. Known for her efforts in assisting homeless in Philadelphia, Pa., Sister Scullion came to Charlotte to assess the homeless situation and offer suggestions for combating the problem.

### Sister of Mercy offers ideas to combat homelessness in Charlotte area

BY KRIS REICH

SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Two Sisters of Mercy and lay Catholics recently took an in-depth look at homelessness in the Charlotte area.

A group of parishioners from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte joined Mercy Sister Therese Galligan, a pastoral associate at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, and her visitor, Mercy Sister Mary Scullion of Philadelphia, Pa., on a tour of shelters and agencies that provide services to the homeless May 1.

That evening to a capacity crowd at St. Matthew Church, Sister Scullion gave her assessment of the homeless situation and passionately challenged area Christians to respond to the crisis at hand.

Social workers estimate there are more than 5,000 homeless in the Charlotte area, with nearly half of them children. Many homeless work but do not earn enough to pay rent.

To combat homelessness in Philadelphia, Sister Scullion in 1989 co-founded Project HOME (Housing, Opportunities, Medical Care, Education), a program that provides housing, employment, education and health care to homeless and low-income residents in Philadelphia.

The program's motto is "None of us are home until all of us are home."

St. Matthew and St. Gabriel churches were among the sponsors of Sister Scullion's visit, the goal of which was to assist the community in providing safe havens for women and children who are homeless, and to end the cycle of homelessness by promoting the identification, development and funding options for safe, affordable housing.

"In the long run, the economics of addressing homelessness issues costs far less than the economics of addressing the fall out caused by homelessness," said Sister Scullion.

"Walking by someone sleeping in a doorway is an assault on our dignity and an assault on that person's dignity. Every human being deserves a place to stay," she said.

Speaking to homeless individuals at Charlotte's Urban Ministry Center, she said, "Homelessness is not acceptable, it's not OK, and it's not your fault."

The privately-funded Urban Ministry Center began 14 years ago after four downtown churches — among them, St. Peter Church — responded to the needs of the city's growing homeless population.

From that initial soup kitchen has come a facility that provides counseling and employment, athletic and substance abuse recovery programs.

The facility's outreach now focuses on three main principles: engage, build trust and change behavior.

"We need to change our society and hold our elected officials responsible for doing their part," said Sister Scullion. "If we want peace, we have to work for justice."

During her talk in Charlotte, she encouraged her Charlotte audience to "challenge the businesses all around you to do their share."

"Instead of complaining about the homeless hanging out at the Urban Ministry Center, challenge them to join you next time you pick up garbage," she said. "It's their neighborhood, too."

*Kris Reich is communications director for the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.*

## TOWARD THE PRIESTHOOD



COURTESY PHOTO BY KEN SNOW

John Eckert (second from right), a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, is pictured after his admission to candidacy for holy orders at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio April 26. Also pictured (from left) are Father John Allen, director of pastoral formation for the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; Msgr. Nevin Klinger, School of Theology vice rector; Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix; and Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector and president of the seminary.

### Seminarian admitted to candidacy

COLUMBUS, Ohio — John Eckert, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, has taken another step toward the priesthood.

Eckert was one of nine seminarians admitted to candidacy for holy orders by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix during a ceremony in a chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum April 26.

The rite of admission to candidacy for holy orders is celebrated when a seminarian has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination.

In the presence of a bishop, the seminarian publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for holy orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end, so that he will serve

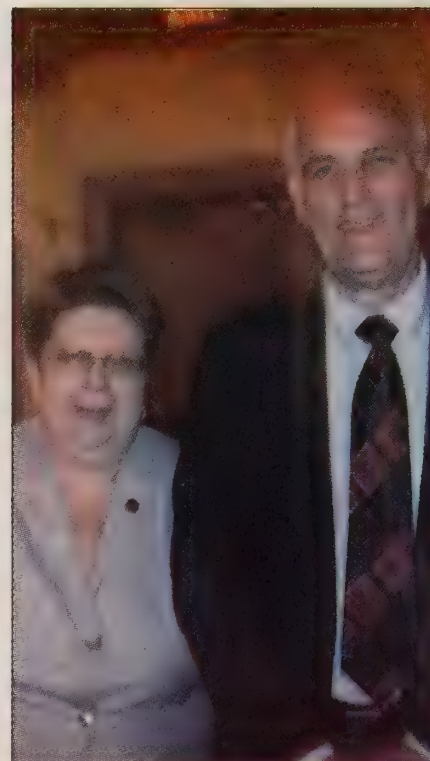
Christ and the Church faithfully.

"There are three traits ... that are the distinguished goals for which these candidates strive," Bishop Olmsted said in his homily.

"Holiness of life; true art — the art of loving others as Christ loves us; and universality — being Catholic in identity, life, and mission," he continued. "When you and I live these traits, we bear witness to hope, because we bear witness to Christ."

The Pontifical College Josephinum, as an international seminary, serves an average of 30 dioceses in the United States and abroad. The nine seminarians represented eight dioceses, and they will continue studies at the seminary for two more years before being ordained to the priesthood.

## Partners in Hope



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Candy Hill (at left), Catholic Charities USA senior vice president for social policy and government affairs, is pictured with Bill LaMay, a member of Catholic Social Services' board of directors, at the "Partners in Hope" fundraising event at the Embassy Suites hotel in Winston-Salem May 2. The annual event raises funds for CSS's Piedmont Triad Office. As guest speaker, Hill addressed the moral issue of poverty.

Catholic Charities USA, of which Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte is an affiliate, launched a campaign in January 2007 to reduce poverty in the United States by half by 2020.

"Action in our local communities is key," said Hill, pointing out that social change does not begin in Washington, D.C., but ends there in political action. "More Congress people are now calling Catholic Charities USA before voting on issues that affect the poor," she said.

The poverty campaign is the call to work together locally and nationally for those without a voice in politics. National statistics on poverty match a report that states one in five children in North Carolina lives in poverty and that poverty is an epidemic with harmful cognitive, physical and emotional effects.





CNS PHOTO BY XINHUA/ZHANG YUNFEI, REUTERS

Monks clear fallen trees from a road in Yangon, Myanmar, May 4 after Cyclone Nargis swept through the previous day, in this picture distributed by China's official news agency Xinhua. Thousands of people are believed to have been killed in the cyclone.

# Pope appeals for help for cyclone victims

CYCLONE, from page 1

after the cyclone's heavy rains and winds of up to 120 mph swept over southern Myanmar May 3.

The cyclone damaged at least three major cities, including Yangon, the capital of Myanmar and its largest city.

Earlier, in a telegram sent on behalf of the pope by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, to Archbishop Paul Zingtung Grawng of Mandalay, the pope had expressed deep sadness and "heartfelt sympathy" after hearing news of "the tragic aftermath" of the disaster.

The pope said he was "confident that the international community will respond with generous and effective relief to the needs" of those hit by the cyclone.

In Thailand and India, Catholic agencies prepared relief efforts for neighboring Myanmar, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Father Pibul Visitnontachai, director of the Thai bishops' Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, told UCA News May 7 that the Myanmar Embassy had just given permission for a church team to go there. He said his request to send representatives was turned down, but he reapplied in the name of Caritas after Caritas Internationalis officials meeting in Rome May 4 resolved to let the Thai church lead its response to the disaster.

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations.

A representative of the Thai bishops and a representative of the Irish Caritas organization, Trocaire, were to enter Myanmar May 8, said Father Visitnontachai.

He said they were to assess the situation in the affected areas and plan a

coordinated response with the bishops of the affected dioceses.

Father Visitnontachai said the delegation would take more than \$31,450, an initial donation from Thai Catholics.

Meanwhile, he said, the church would conduct a campaign to inform Thais of the situation in Myanmar and raise donations.

Caritas India also planned to send at least two volunteers to Myanmar to assess the situation, said the agency's executive director, Father Varghese Mattamana.

However, the Indian workers were facing visa problems, he told UCA News May 7. Caritas India, he added, wants to send 1 million rupees (US\$25,000) as immediate relief.

While he had "no definite" information about the extent of the devastation, Father Mattamana said Caritas was trying to work with German aid agency volunteers who had reached the affected region.

The U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services said in a statement May 6 that the Baltimore-based agency "is supporting the emergency relief and response efforts of the Caritas Internationalis network."

"Cyclone Nargis could not have happened in a worse stretch of land. The surge hit in the low-lying coastal areas. With the tidal surge at 12-15 feet, presumably thousands of people living along the delta were simply washed away," said Pat Johns, director of CRS' emergency response team, in the statement.

The Canadian Catholic aid organization Development and Peace said in a statement May 6 that it also had been evaluating the situation and coordinating its relief efforts with Caritas.

The aid agency has been accepting funds to help the victims of the cyclone.

About 1 percent of the population of junta-ruled Myanmar is Catholic. Most of its citizens are Buddhist.

Contributing to this story was Regina Linskey in Washington.



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## Cyclone Disaster

Tens of thousands of people are confirmed dead as a result of Cyclone Nargis that hit southern Myanmar. At least three major cities and two states have declared a state of emergency.

Source: Reuters

©2008 CNS



# Not an easy read

Survey indicates Bible hard to understand

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Bible: Most people in Europe and North America have one and some of them actually read it, but more than half of them say it is difficult to understand.

A survey commissioned by the Catholic Biblical Federation found that even those who reported reading the Bible said it was not easy to understand.

Luca Diotallevi, the Rome-based sociology professor who coordinated the survey's working group, said, "This is very important: People described the Bible as difficult whether or not they said they read it."

"The people of God are asking for help reading the Bible," he said in an April 30 interview.

The Catholic Biblical Federation commissioned the survey as part of its preparation for the October world Synod of Bishops, which will focus on the Bible.

During an April 28 Vatican press conference, the federation and GfK-Eurisko, which conducted the survey, presented preliminary results from nine countries: the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Russia.

The survey results are based on telephone interviews conducted in November with 13,000 adults.

Asked, "In the past 12 months have you read any passage from the Bible?" 75 percent of U.S. adults said "yes."

Their European counterparts were far behind them, but Diotallevi said the results coincide with other surveys on the differences between U.S. and European religious attitudes and practices.

Diotallevi said a few more Protestants than Catholics reported having and reading the Bible, but the difference was so slight that it "was not statistically relevant."

The percentage of Europeans affirming they had read a Bible passage in the previous year varied from a high of 38 percent in Poland to a low of 20 percent in Spain.

But the huge differences all but disappeared when those surveyed were asked whether they considered the Bible's content to be "easy" or "difficult."

## Word for word

The spread of those who said it was difficult went from 56 percent in the United States to 70 percent in Germany.

The percentage of respondents who said they had a Bible at home was 93 percent in the United States, 85 percent in Poland, 75 percent in Italy, 74 percent in Germany, 67 percent in both the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, 65 percent in Russia, 61 percent in Spain and 48 percent in France.

The survey designers also tested for what they defined as an individual's "index of biblical knowledge," by asking seven very basic questions, such as "Are the Gospels part of the Bible?" and "Did Jesus write a book of the Bible?"

Diotallevi said the scores of Catholics

"The people of God are asking for help reading the Bible."

— Luca Diotallevi

and Protestants were not significantly different because, while slightly more Protestants reported reading the Bible, "they have a greater tendency toward fundamentalism, giving what we would consider a wrong answer. For example, many of them maintain that Jesus is the author of the Gospels."

When asked to describe the Bible, the most popular answer in every country except Germany was, "The Bible is the inspired word of God, but not everything in the Bible should be taken literally, word for word."

In Germany, 40 percent chose the phrase about the Bible being inspired, but more respondents — 42 percent — said, "The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts."

Diotallevi described as fundamentalist those who chose the response: "The Bible is the actual word of God, which must be taken literally, word for word."

Poland was the country with the highest percentage of fundamentalists, with 34 percent affirming the statement. In the United States, 27 percent said it was literally God's word and in Italy 23 percent said so.

## 'Lexio divina'

One statistic bishops are expected to discuss during the synod is the relatively infrequent use of the Bible for prayer, the "lexio divina" promoted by the church.

Survey respondents who said they prayed were asked, "How do you do it?"

While 37 percent of U.S. respondents and 32 percent of Polish respondents said they use the Bible to pray, only 9 percent of people in the United Kingdom, France and Italy reported praying with the Bible and only 6 percent of Spaniards said they used the Bible for their prayers.

In France and in Italy, the top answer was, "I recite words that I know by heart."

In all the other countries, the most popular method of private prayer was using one's own words.

Those interviewed also were asked about their political orientation; in order to have comparable statistics, the survey did not ask people which party they belonged to, but rather to describe themselves as right wing, center-right, center, center-left or left wing.

He said the number of people who read the Bible "was more or less equal" in each of the political categories.

"But on individual issues, reading the Bible was strongly predictive," Diotallevi said.

The statistical breakdowns were not available in late April, but he said those who reported reading the Bible were those most likely to oppose abortion and euthanasia.

## Daily Prayer and the Bible

Percent of adults who pray daily or almost daily...

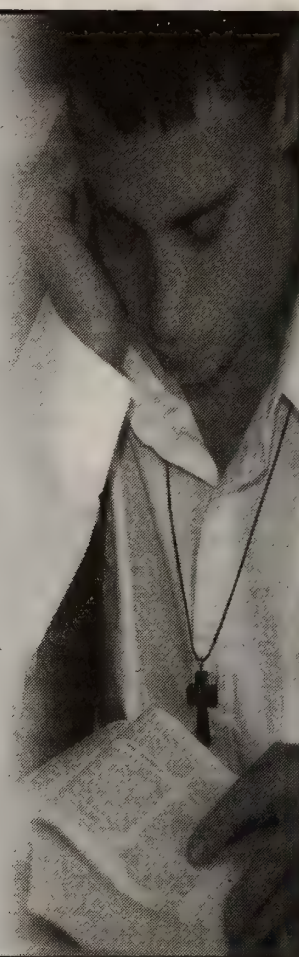
Percent of adults who have read from the Bible in the last year...

67	U.S.	75
56	POLAND	38
24	U.K.	36
28	RUSSIA	35
26	GERMANY	28
42	ITALY	27
19	FRANCE	21
37	SPAIN	20

Data from November 2007 interviews with 13,000 residents.

Source: GfK-Eurisko for the Catholic Biblical Federation

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## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).

*Thank you, Sister Helene*

Please join us in honoring Sister Helene Nagle as she steps down as principal of St. Ann Catholic School after 17 years of dedicated leadership and service.

*Mass of Celebration* † May 17 † 4:30pm

St. Ann Catholic School—3635 Park Road, Charlotte

*Celebration Dinner*

Immediately following at the Monsignor Allen Center

To RSVP and for further information how you can help celebrate Sister Helene's amazing career, contact: Shelley Earnhardt at [shelley@carolina.rr.com](mailto:shelley@carolina.rr.com)



## Pope to spend 10 days, including 3 of rest, on trip to Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Australia and organizers of World Youth Day in Sydney have identified a "serene, beautiful and suitable" place in Australia for Pope Benedict XVI to rest for three full days in July before joining the youth gathering.

While refusing to identify the place for reasons of privacy and security, Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher, World Youth Day coordinator, said the pope would have "the opportunity to see some of Australia's beautiful flora and fauna."

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, assistant director of the Vatican press office, said May 2 the place chosen was near Sydney.

Pope Benedict will leave Rome July 12, stop briefly in Darwin, Australia, July 13 for refueling, then proceed to Sydney, Father Benedettini said.

The pope will spend July 14-16 resting and recovering from jet lag, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

Pope Benedict will be involved in World Youth Day activities July 17-20 and will leave Sydney July 21.

Father Lombardi said the "three days of rest, without doing absolutely anything," would allow the 81-year-old pope to absorb the effects of the trip from Rome, which crosses nine time zones. The total flight time is expected to be about 20 hours.

Rest days are not unprecedented in papal travel. In 2002, when Pope John Paul II went to Toronto for World Youth Day, he spent most of the first four days after his arrival relaxing at an island retreat center.



CNS PHOTO BY TIM WIMBORNE, REUTERS

Waves crash over rocks in the harbor of Sydney, Australia, near the city's famous bridge and opera house April 29. Sydney is set to host World Youth Day July 15-20.

The refueling stop in Darwin is the only stop planned on the way to Sydney, Father Benedettini said.

In late April, the World Youth Day organizers said nearly 123,000 young people had already registered to participate in the July 15-20 gathering.

They are scheduled to welcome Pope Benedict July 17.

The papal welcome will include a greeting from local indigenous leaders and "a colorful reception with flags from all over the world," organizers said.

In the afternoon, the pope will take a cruise in Sydney Harbor, disembarking at Barangaroo, where he will address the pilgrims.

The detailed program for the pope's visit was expected to be released in June.

## Pew poll: Americans think more highly of pope after his U.S. visit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April boosted his image among Americans, including Catholics, according to a recent survey.

Sixty-one percent of the 1,000 people surveyed by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life April 23-30, just days after his U.S. trip, said they view the pope favorably.

In March, 52 percent of those surveyed had the same response.

Among Catholics, the pope's favorable rating rose to 83 percent in April, up from 74 percent in March. The survey included 232 Catholics.

The survey also found that nearly half of the responding Catholics (49 percent) say they have a very favorable opinion of the pope, up from 36 percent in March. Among all Americans, 22 percent of those surveyed said they had a very favorable view of the pope.

The pope also received improved marks for promoting good relations with other religions between March and April, especially among Protestants in the survey.

Nearly half (49 percent) of Protestants who had heard at least a little about the pope said he has done an excellent or good job in his relations with other

religions. In late March, just 32 percent of Protestants held that view.

Overall, 70 percent of Catholics expressed a positive opinion of Pope Benedict's efforts to foster good relations with other religions, up from 64 percent in March. Most of the improvement came from among Catholics who attend Mass less than every week. In that group, 60 percent of those surveyed said they felt positive about the pope's interreligious efforts, an increase from 48 percent a month earlier.

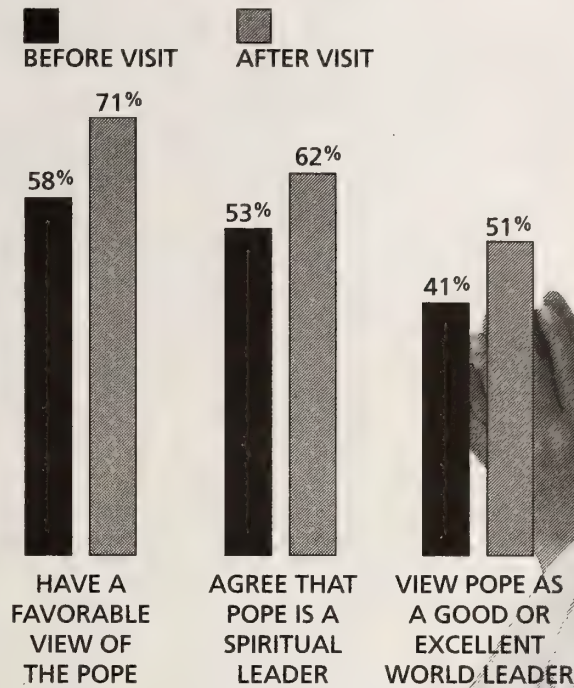
The survey also questioned participants about the pope's handling of the clergy sexual abuse scandal. Less than half of Catholics (49 percent) felt the pontiff had done a good or excellent job in the matter. Among those who attend Mass weekly, 60 percent were positive about the pope's efforts related to the crisis compared with 38 percent of those who attend Mass less frequently.

Among Protestants overall, just 39 percent felt positive about his efforts. White evangelicals felt more positive about Pope Benedict's handling of the abuse scandal by a 45 percent to 32 percent margin over white mainline Protestants.

The margin of error for the survey was plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the total sample and plus or minus 7.5 percentage points for the Catholic subset.

## Positive Views

Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. in April had a positive impact on the public's attitude toward him, according to results of a post-visit poll.



Nationwide poll of 1,013 adults conducted between April 22-24, 2008.  
Source: Knights of Columbus  
©2008 CNS

## Poll shows pope's visit influenced attitudes toward church, faith

POPE, from page 1

according to a poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus.

The nationwide poll of 1,013 adults was conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., April 22-24, just after the April 15-20 papal visit.

Marist conducted a similar poll prior to the pope's visit. Both polls had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

According to the newest poll, 65 percent of Americans have a more positive view of Pope Benedict as a result of what they saw and heard during his six-day visit to the United States and 52 percent have a more positive view of the Catholic Church.

The percentage of Americans with a favorable view of Pope Benedict jumped from 58 percent prior to his visit to 71 percent afterward. Similarly, the percentage of those who described the pope positively as a spiritual leader increased from 53 percent to 62 percent.

Poll results also showed that respondents have a higher opinion of the pope as a good world leader — 51 percent now, compared to 41 percent before the visit.

And 56 percent of adults said his ability to promote good relations between the Catholic Church and other religions was good or excellent, up from 40 percent in the previous poll.

When asked what part of the pope's visit was the most meaningful, 39 percent said the pope's meeting with

abuse victims.

Fifteen percent were unsure; 14 percent cited the pope's visit to ground zero and 9 percent said the Masses at baseball stadiums. The pope's other events were cited by 7 percent or less of the respondents.

A majority of Americans, 55 percent, said the pope spent the right amount of time during his visit discussing the clergy abuse crisis and 58 percent were satisfied with his apology for the scandal.

But 46 percent of respondents said the church has not done enough to avoid a recurrence of the abuse scandal.

More than a third of respondents said they are more in touch with spiritual values as the result of the pope's visit. And nearly half of respondents said they have a better understanding of the Catholic Church's positions on important issues.

A significant number of Americans are prepared to change their personal involvement as a result of the pope's April visit to Washington and New York.

About 40 percent said they are more likely to lead a moral life and make family a bigger part of their lives and one-third are more likely to participate in elections, community activities and their churches.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said the poll results "show clearly" the pope "has presented the Catholics of the United States with a tremendous opportunity."

"Americans are a religious people, and they responded very positively to the message of faith, hope and love that the Holy Father delivered throughout his visit," said Anderson. "It is now up to all of us in the Catholic community to walk through the door he has opened for us and work together to build a civilization of love."



# A look at the lives, faith of two diocesan priests

PRIESTS, from page 1

in Charlotte, the largest parish not only in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, but also in the southern United States with a impressive 7,100 households.

"I have the responsibility and care of 26,000 people," he noted.

That number includes a paid staff of 56 and 5,000 volunteers involved in active ministry.

"I want a lot of people doing something, not a few people doing a lot," he indicated, adding all they do is "for the glory and honor of God."

His large parish campus, which includes St. Matthew School and the New Life Center, has become a hub of faith-centered services and activities for both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Mass is celebrated five times on Sunday, three times on Wednesday and twice on other days of the week.

"The primary purpose of this parish is to teach, preach and to help people toward holiness," he said.

Msgr. McSweeney, who turned 66 May 4, is actively aware of all that transpires in his parish and as his morning progresses he can be found moving from meeting to meeting with his parish department and ministry heads, volunteers and parishioners.

He doesn't like to micromanage — "I count on and trust people to do their jobs," he said — but the constant interaction with his flock compels him.

"My primary job, which I take very seriously, is how do I help people to get closer to God," said Msgr. McSweeney, who considers himself like

a jigsaw puzzle worker.

"Each person — each piece — is different," he said. "And through consistency and persistence, you get a beautiful picture."

Despite the busyness of his days, Msgr. McSweeney believes constant prayer and reflection helps him to see and create that picture.

"A parish priest needs quiet time to be contemplative of what's going on — in his life and in the lives of those in his parish," he said. "It gives you a deeper sensitivity to what is going on so, as their shepherd, you can pull all those pieces together."

## Fruits of faith

It was around 11:30 a.m. that Father Patrick Hoare stood in front of a gym full of students. He held a brown paper bag with the words, "Fr. Pat," boldly emblazoned across one side.

Inside the bag was a pair of sneakers, a visual he would use to illustrate the resurrection during his homily at the Mass he celebrated for students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

It may sound like a strange scenario, but for Father Hoare, it was nothing out of the ordinary.

His day begins around 6 a.m. with prayer. If he is scheduled to celebrate the 7 a.m. Mass at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, he hits the gym afterward. When celebrating the 9 a.m. Mass, he goes to the gym before.

Then it's off to the parish office and a day full of responsibilities and meetings. But the part of the day he always looks forward to most is celebrating Mass.

"It's the one time of the day that I know for sure that I am going to connect with God in a special way," said Father Hoare.



Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, meets with parish department heads April 24. He likes to micromanage. "I count on and trust people to do their jobs," he said.

"In preparing for Mass, I have to go over the readings and contemplate what they say," he said. "It gives me that moment of quiet time at the beginning of the day to focus on what Jesus is asking me to do."

This particular day, it included — among other things — meetings, a funeral Mass and celebrating Mass for teenagers at Charlotte Catholic.

"Some people are intimidated by youth," said Father Hoare, 41. "(But) I feel like I have a tremendous opportunity to impact the future."

"It's easier to teach a younger person," he added, "even though the fruits of that might not be born for many years."

Father Hoare knows a thing or two about how long it can take a tree to bear fruit. Discerning his vocation to the priesthood was not something that happened overnight.

A native of Pennsylvania, Father Hoare moved to Charlotte in 1995 when the insurance company he worked for opened an office in town.

He recalled thinking, "Maybe the dissatisfaction in my life wasn't a call to the priesthood, but just a call to change my life."

Over the next few years, his spirituality grew. He volunteered as a youth minister at his parish, St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, from 1995 to 2001.

Then he landed his dream job as vice president of his company, a position that required him to move back north, this time to Baltimore, Md. Although he looked forward to career advancement and being closer to his family, Father Hoare was surprised to find he still wasn't content.

"I liked my company. I had no moral aversion to my job," he said. "It was just a realization that I enjoyed working

with the church, I loved working with young people."

It was about that time his parish priest, Msgr. McSweeney, encouraged him to consider the priesthood.

## Priestly possibilities

Born in Oneida, N.Y., in 1942, Msgr. McSweeney thought he would go into the family business of running funeral homes. But in his late 20s, he felt his heart changing.

"Something was going on in my life. I wanted to give myself to something," he recalled.

At first he wasn't convinced he was being called to the priesthood, even as he enrolled in Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut at age 29. He did not pack to stay long.

"I thought when my clothes were used up, I'd leave and go home," he confessed. "But I didn't. A feeling came over me that this was right, and I gave myself to the Lord."

He was ordained as the first priest for the newly-established Diocese of Charlotte by Bishop Michael J. Begley, the diocese's first bishop, on Sept. 29, 1974. Msgr. McSweeney said he came to Charlotte "excited" at being involved in the building process of a mission diocese.

"There is tremendous opportunity to grow in the true sense of the Second Vatican Council ... tremendous opportunity to build the Kingdom of God here," he said.

"The building blocks," he noted, "are the people, not the buildings."

The fledgling diocese has grown tremendously in the last 35 years, with a current estimated registered population of more than 161,000 Catholics.

As Bishop Begley once told him, "Keep out of the way of the Holy Spirit."



## St. Matthew Catholic Church presents A Symposium on St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 2008-June 2009 the  
Year of St. Paul. In preparation for this anniversary year  
we present the final talk in this series:

May 15: "Greeting the Greeks; Hailing the Hellenists" — Watching Paul as he engaged ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Fr. Christopher Schreck, S.T.B., Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; S.S.I. (Licentiate in Sacred Scripture), Pontifical Biblical Institute; Ph.D. S.T.D., Catholic University of Leuven; past Chair, Dept. of Sacred Scripture, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; author of many articles published in academic journals. Fr. Schreck brings great insight into the New Testament and, specifically, St. Paul.

7-8:30pm in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center  
St. Matthew Catholic Church  
8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte  
704-543-7677

Please join us for this spiritually enriching presentation. All are welcome!



## MEN IN BLACK



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

lived in all aspects of the parish's ministry, he doesn't

If you do, the Lord's church will grow."

Over the next three decades, Msgr. McSweeney served in parishes in Belmont, Charlotte and Waynesville, and served the diocese through a number of roles, including president of the presbyteral council, director of vocations, director of planning and development, executive secretary of the diocesan pastoral council, moderator of the curia, vice chancellor, vicar general and chancellor, and administrator.

"I've served in many parishes, in many roles, and I've had the privilege of seeing the church grow in many aspects and cultures," said Msgr. McSweeney.

"But since day one, knowing Jesus, and helping others to know him, has been the number one goal."

In the late 1970s, while director of vocations, Msgr. McSweeney met a young man at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte whom he described as having "a good sense of humor ... and a deep sense of faith." He encouraged him to consider the priesthood.

Several years later that man, Peter Jugis, was ordained to the priesthood and in October 2003 was ordained as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"To me, with Bishop Jugis' ordination, the Catholic Church of this young diocese is truly coming into its own," said Msgr. McSweeney. "This local church has produced a bishop of its own — it gives this diocese a sense of maturity."

Just a few years prior, Msgr. McSweeney had helped Father Hoare find his calling.

"He was my most recent pastor, and one of the first priests in my adult life to mention the possibility of the priesthood," said Father Hoare.

"He has always been consistent in his support of me," he added.

### Family in faith

It was in 2002 that Father Hoare entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa., as a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I didn't feel called to be a priest in Philadelphia," said Father Hoare, who was attracted to the growing population of Catholics in western North Carolina.

"Charlotte was an exciting place to live as a Catholic," he said. "Newly-ordained priests were becoming pastors within two to three years."

Ordained in June 2007, Father Hoare currently serves as parochial vicar at St. Mark Church. It didn't take long for him to become immersed in his priestly duties.

"I think what I like the most is being able to be a part of so many peoples lives at so many special moments in their lives," he said.

"I already feel like I'm a part of the family," he added.

Founded in 1997, St. Mark Church now has more than 3,000 registered

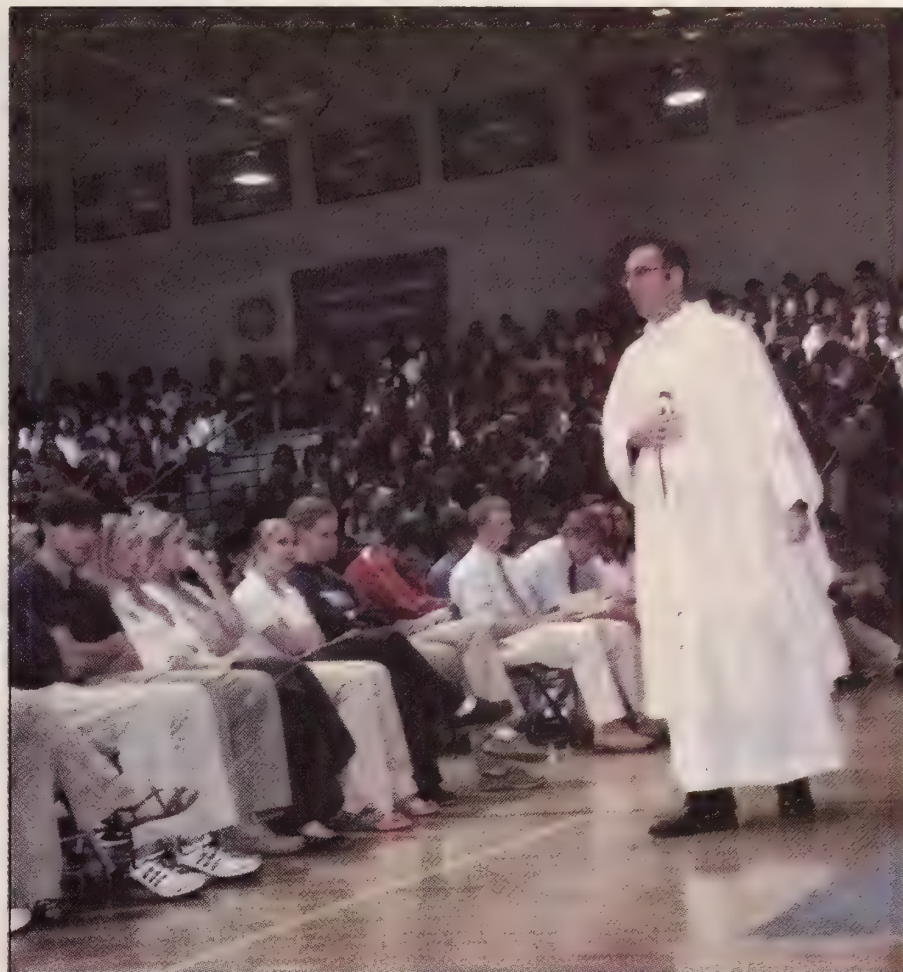


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Father Patrick Hoare, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, gives his homily during Mass in the gymnasium of Charlotte Catholic High School April 2. He said he enjoys ministering to youths. "It's easier to teach a younger person even though the fruits of that might not be born for many years," he said.

families. Currently Mass is celebrated in the gymnasium of the Msgr. Joseph Kerin Family Life Center. A new church scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

Father Hoare said he has learned a lot from Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Mark Church.

"He is very pastoral in the sense of his kindness to people," said Father Hoare. "He is genuinely concerned for everyone. I think he helps me to enhance that."

Father Hoare's experiences as a parish priest have taught him a lot about the people he serves.

"I've learned that faithful, God-seeking people come in all shapes and sizes and all different backgrounds," he said. "Often, the people who say the least are the people you need to listen to the most."

Msgr. McSweeney would agree.

In addition to encouraging vocations to the priesthood, Msgr. McSweeney believes in emphasizing the baptismal call of the laity, and that they need to be given more responsibility in churches.

"I am constantly amazed at the faith dimension and the spiritual journeys of the laity," he said.

As a parish priest, Msgr. McSweeney said he gets the "unique privilege" of sharing the "greatest part of their lives — birthdays, dying and everything in between. I laugh with people and shed tears with them."

He believes in tending to his flock the way a gardener tends a garden. "I nurture and care for it, and plant for the future," he said. "I believe in the future."

### Spirit and solace

The future of the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte is strong and vibrant. Seventeen seminarians are currently studying for the priesthood, and two will

be ordained as priests in June.

There is camaraderie among the priests, especially those who have gone to seminary together.

On his days off, Father Hoare likes to visit with his friends, Fathers Patrick Cahill and Patrick Toole, both parochial vicars at St. Matthew Church. All three were ordained together by Bishop Jugis.

The priesthood, said Father Hoare, "is not a lonely existence."

"The priests I know are not lonely. They have friends and family and people they work with."

He tries also to make a trip to Belmont Abbey once or twice a month.

"The monks are very welcoming," said Father Hoare. "I'll have lunch in the monastery and spend time in the library."

It is nice being able to get away for the day, said Father Hoare, who enjoys the occasional opportunity for solitude.

People might be surprised to know that "I am very shy and would not consider myself an extrovert at all."

The teenagers at Charlotte Catholic might find that hard to believe, but Father Hoare credits God with all that he has accomplished.

"It doesn't really depend on your ability," said Father Hoare. "That's where God kicks in."

It is God, also, Msgr. McSweeney credits with the successfulness of his days.

When he ends his day typically around 9 p.m., Msgr. McSweeney reflects on all that has transpired, and asks God to help him with what is to come tomorrow.

"I do the best I can, in words and in actions, and not just in the church, but day in and day out in the routine of life," he said.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, pauses to speak with parishioner Lee Magers between meetings April 1. "My primary job, which I take very seriously, is how do I help people to get closer to God," said Msgr. McSweeney.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Concentrating on Christ

Author Anne Rice talks of losing, regaining her Catholic faith

BY PAT NORBY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Most people know author Anne Rice for her detailed characterization of vampires and vivid descriptions of their haunts in the streets and homes of New Orleans, where she was born and raised.

But a growing number of people today are reading Rice's second novel about Christ, "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana."

Her first book on Jesus' early years, "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt," was published in 2005, several years after she consecrated her life to Christ.

Before that time, Anne (O'Brien) Rice was searching for redemption after her break with the Catholic Church at age 18 and her marriage to Stan Rice, a professed atheist.

"I made the terrible mistake of losing my faith, of just thinking, if I can't live within the confines of the church, if I don't find it possible to do this, if I think the church is wrong, then maybe God doesn't exist," Rice said in an interview from her home in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

"I stopped talking to God," she added. "I stopped asking for his help. I stopped really praying. ... The mistake was rigidity, it was a lack of flexibility, a lack of being able to open up to some new experiences and not make such a violent break with the church."

Although those years were financially fruitful — "Interview With the Vampire" (1976) was the first of Rice's more than 20 works of fiction — she was filled with guilt that was reflected in her characters.

The vampires were a metaphor for the "souls who are away from the light of Christ and live in the darkness of the night," she said.

Over the years, she said, the characters continued to reflect her despair, guilt and search for meaning and faith. The first fictional vampires were set in the 18th century. Then Rice and her characters started working their way back in time.

"When I got to the first century and began to study the origin of Christianity and began to study what was going on in the Roman world at the time, I began to realize that I saw patterns that I could not explain, except that God was working in history," she said.

"I read and wrote myself back into the church through my search," said Rice, although she agonized over theological and sociological questions.

"Then the day came when I thought, 'Look, you believe in (Christ), you love him, you want to go home to your church and you want to go back to the banquet table, (and) you want to receive holy Communion again,'" she said. "That means you're not an atheist, lady!"



CNS PHOTO BY BECKET M. GHIOTO, COURTESY OF KNOPF

Anne Rice, author of "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana," is pictured in an undated photo.

She no longer needed to answer questions about how things would work out or why evil existed or why good people suffer. Jesus knew the answers, so she could let go.

She said she had no doubt that Jesus was God when she returned to the Catholic Church in 1998.

Rice was living in New Orleans, three blocks from the boundary of Nativity of Our Lord in Kenner, La., where Father Curtis Thomas was pastor of the mostly blue-collar parish.

Although everyone in the parish knew who Rice was, she was just another faithful parishioner who arrived early to pray before the Saturday vigil Mass and chat with people before she left.

"Once, we said it would be nice if some of you would visit the poor box more often," said Father Thomas, now pastor of St. Bonaventure Church in Avondale, La.

"The next week, a check showed up from Miss Rice. There was no hoop-de-doo or anything. If there was a need and she valued the need she would try to help meet it," he said.

Father Thomas, an admirer of Rice's vampire novels, also has enjoyed her first two "Christ the Lord" books and said they have "wonderful insights into what may have been the environ that Christ, as a young man, was exposed to."

He also said there is nothing counter to church teaching in her fictional characterization of Christ.

Rice has been surprised by some of the criticism she has received. She expected it, somewhat, from Protestants who don't recognize the perpetual virginity of Mary, she said.

But Catholics, too, have criticized her use of the legends about Anna and Joachim, the parents of Mary. Rice said she combined the Eastern Orthodox and Western views of the children she portrays as Jesus' cousins and Jesus' brother, James.

"We know the Lord had brothers and sisters. The Catholics, from the time of St. Jerome, have maintained that those brothers and sisters were in fact cousins," she explained. "But the Eastern Orthodox

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 18, 2007

May 18, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9  
Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56
- 2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Gospel: John 3:16-18

We show God's love by what we give

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Years ago I was a clown. Not in the Ringling Brothers sense of the word, but the clown ministry version. I loved my costume: I was kind of a prom date gone wrong with top hat, tails and all.

My time in this ministry was short-lived, and my great costume went into the closet to collect dust. Some time later a friend of mine who was still in the ministry asked if he could have my top hat for his costume.

I was hesitant, thinking maybe I would pull it out for Halloween or some other random event. In the end I said no.

That top hat sat untouched on the top shelf in my office for the next 10 years. Every time I looked at it I remembered my unwillingness to give it away. My attachment to this small material object blocked the love I had for my friend.

Lucky for us, God does not behave like this. John's Gospel tells us that "God so loved the world that he gave his only

Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Love is wanting good for another and being willing to do what it takes to bring about this good in the person's life. God demonstrates this definitively in the sacrifice of his Son.

It is God's desire that every one of us spend eternity in union with him. To bring about this desired good meant sending Jesus to earth to suffer and die for our sins.

God was willing to do this. This was the first "big give" (sorry, Oprah).

John 3:16 is not just a great sign to hold up in the end zone of a football game. It is the defining statement of God's love for us. Yet, at the same time, it is also the blueprint for how we are called to love.

God does not ask us to give up our children to save the world, but he challenges us to show our love for God and our neighbor through what we give, be that a lifetime of missionary work or an unused top hat.

It truly is not how much we give but that we give.

Questions:

How would you make John 3:16 come alive for you? (You) so loved (name a person) that (you) gave (a gift) so that this person would have (name the good you want for him/her). What is a good you have received from someone's love for you?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 11-17

**Sunday (Pentecost)**, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday (St. Nereus, St. Achilleus, St. Pancras)**, James 1:1-11, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Fatima)**, James 1:12-18, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (St. Matthias)**, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Thursday (St. Isidore)**, James 2:1-9, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday**, James 2:14-24, 26, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday**, James 3:1-10, Mark 9:2-13.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18-24

**Sunday (Most Holy Trinity)**, Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, Daniel 3:52-56, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; **Monday**, James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday (St. Bernardine)**, James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions)**, James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40; **Thursday (St. Rita of Cascia)**, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50; **Friday**, James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12; **Saturday**, James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16.

have always believed that James was an older brother, that he was a child of Joseph by a former marriage."

"These ('Christ the Lord') books are absolutely Catholic books, but I hope they speak to all Christians," Rice said. People want biblically correct fiction, especially after "The Da Vinci Code." That was such a debacle, to have that ridiculous novel blown all out of proportion and people actually believing that nonsense."

"I see 'The Road to Cana,' my second novel, as a direct answer to 'The Da Vinci Code,'" she added. "No. Our Lord did not marry Mary Magdalene. No. He was celibate and he was sinless."

Her third book will delve into Jesus' ministry up to the Passion, which will be the focus of her fourth and final book about Christ.

Rice didn't plan to write about the passion when she started the first book on Christ. But her experience with pain and loss has given her insights that have inspired her to continue the series.

Her daughter died of leukemia at age 5. Her husband died of a brain tumor after 41 years of marriage. Her parents are both dead and her older sister, Alice, died in 2007.

Those losses have given her "a deep sense of how important it is to love everyone and to value every single moment and every single day," she said.

Rice, 66, realizes that she is moving toward the later part of her life.

"You watch what people suffer as they die and you see, I think," she said, pausing to gather her composure before adding, "the mercy of the Lord, the Lord's tender mercy."



# Fire destroys two buildings at musician Talbot's hermitage

BERRYVILLE, Ark. (CNS) — An April 28 fire destroyed the common center and chapel at Little Portion Hermitage near Berryville.

The hermitage, the home of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity led by musician John Michael Talbot, worked with firefighters from four different fire departments to stop the blaze.

"Everybody was heroic," Talbot told the Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock. "People were going into the building to save things."

Damages were estimated to be at least \$500,000. The common center housed the hermitage's library, kitchen, archives and offices.

Also destroyed was Talbot's lighting and sound equipment; he was scheduled to leave May 2 for a monthlong tour of Canada.

Both of the buildings that

were destroyed were built between 1983 and 1989.

Spared from the flames were hermitage residences, a second chapel and a retreat center located about a half-mile away.

Talbot identified spiritual lessons from the fire.

"God is stripping us so that only what is essential will remain," he said. "We are going to rebuild, God willing. But we are only going to rebuild in stone."

The Brothers and Sisters of Charity, a community of about 25, includes celibate men and women, married couples and their children.

The fire's origin was not immediately known. Talbot said an "electrical spike" was noticed about 9 p.m. that night, two and a half hours before the fire was first detected. An enclosed wood-pellet stove was lit in the chapel, he added.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE PORTION HERMITAGE

A stone carving of the Virgin Mary is all that stands after a fire destroyed Charity Chapel April 28 at Little Portion Hermitage near Berryville, Ark. The Brothers and Sisters of Charity also lost their common center in the fire. Damages were estimated to be at least \$500,000.

# Church must address role of Internet in identity, community, say experts

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Catholic Church and particularly its social teaching must begin to grapple with the potential and the problems posed by the Internet, particularly when dealing with questions about personal identity, community involvement and solidarity, several social scientists said.

Members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, meeting at the Vatican May 1-7, explored how solidarity and subsidiarity can come together to promote the common good.

As part of their discussion, they looked at the role of the market economy and the state in promoting the exchange of goods, but also at the role played by communities and groups that support people, give them identity and teach them how to contribute to society.

For an increasing number of people, computers are the way they connect to the communities where they test and forge their personal identities and where they express their creativity and contribute to the production of goods, several academy members said at a May 6 Vatican press conference.

Margaret Archer, a professor at the University of Warwick in England and co-organizer of the May meeting, said academy members were discussing the "common good" as those things which "are vital for the flourishing of the human person," including respect for human rights and the sharing of gifts and talents.

"Many of the old methods through which people learned to take part in society — to obey, to contribute, to receive — are threatened or gone altogether," she said.

The primary agent of socialization in the past was the family, led by a person's biological mother and biological

father; "only 50 percent of the West's population" now grows up with both parents at home, she said.

The other significant agent was a person's specific culture, whether it was a nationality or a religion, she said. But increasingly people do not feel bound by those identities.

"It's more pick and mix now," she said.

And particularly as people live longer, she said, more and more of them are living alone, increasing their distance from traditional forms of communal life.

"Here virtual communities could help," she said. "YouTube and Facebook may not be appropriate for people over 55, but we can develop communities for them."

"We cannot compare virtual reality to what we grew up with if we had two parents, but that reality no longer exists for most people," Archer said. "Virtual communities cannot replace the traditional family, but can it fill some of the space?"

"We may be nostalgic, but we cannot turn the clock back," she said.

As the academy members — economists, sociologists, legal experts and theologians, many of whom are not Catholic — engage in a dialogue with church leaders on social topics, Archer said they notice "gaps in Catholic social teaching because the world is changing so rapidly."

"If you go through the documents, you will find very little on information technology," she said.

Michel Bauwens, a Belgian philosopher and theorist specializing in "peer-to-peer" Internet collaboration, said that "the vision of civil society in the documents is constituted by very formal organizations, which are being substituted by more flexible communities," including those formed by people who meet, socialize, work and share primarily through the Internet.

The philosopher said that cooperative, free projects such as the Linux computer operating system and the Wikipedia Internet encyclopedia are the result of a computer culture that encourages people to participate, work together and make their products available in a form anyone can use and access.

"It runs counter to the overbearing influence of both the market and the state," he said.

"Peer-to-peer work is an exemplar of subsidiarity because each person participates to the degree he or she wants, but to translate that into solidarity is an issue that still needs to be developed," he said.

Archer said, "Solidarity is the huge problem left behind by modernity. There is a huge deficit of solidarity," but increasing connections between and among people is probably the first step toward addressing the problem.



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## Students walk to cure diabetes



COURTESY PHOTO

First-grade teacher Crystal Johnson walks with students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point during the school's Walk for Diabetes event held March 3-7. Students and faculty spent recesses and lunch breaks walking on campus and raised \$7,600 for diabetes research by the American Diabetes Association. As a bonus, schools that raised more than \$7,500 received rebates toward the purchases of sports equipment or medical supplies from a participating company.

## CCHS senior selected as Presidential Scholar

CHARLOTTE — Kristin Hogan, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, has been selected as a 2008 Presidential Scholar.

Hogan is one of 139 U.S. high school seniors that have demonstrated academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship and service at school and in their community.

The Presidential Scholars will be honored for their accomplishments in Washington, D.C. June 21-24.

"The 2008 Presidential Scholars shine a bright hope on the future of our country," said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. "Not only have these young graduates demonstrated exemplary discipline and achievement in academics and the arts, but they have also exhibited exceptional leadership and service to their local communities."

Hogan, president of the National Honor Society, has taken eight AP classes, founded the Triathlon Club and has been junior and senior student council representative.

Hogan excels in field hockey and track, played varsity basketball as a freshman, traveled to the United

Kingdom as part of a People-to-People visit and volunteers as a student counselor and tutor.



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## Students collect items for U.S. troops



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Connolly (left), music teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, helps students Austin Adzima, Katie Vest, Taylor Vest and Thomas Gooding load supplies for the Soldier's Angels in March. Students, faculty and staff collected nearly 300 pounds of personal care items and snacks for the nonprofit volunteer organization that provides letters, care packages and comfort items to deployed U.S. troops and support for their families.

The school's donations were sent to military chaplains to be distributed. Often, Soldiers' Angels care packages go to troops deployed in hard-to-reach areas or to those who otherwise would not receive care packages on a regular basis.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Youths watch a musical performance by Jesse Manibusan, a Catholic signer and songwriter, during the Diocesan Youth Conference at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest April 26.

## Social Action Summer Institute (SASI)

A National Institute for Catholic Social Justice Ministries

July 20 -25, 2008

Oglethorpe U., Atlanta, GA

**Sun. July 20 – Tues. July 22**

**Track I - Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).**

**Track II - Advanced Symposium on Racism** (designed for those who have previously attended a SASI Track I).

**Wed. July 23 – Fri. July 25**

Skills for Diocesan & Parish Social Action

For program details, including presenters, event costs, registration procedures, and "frequently asked questions" go to: [www.nplc.org](http://www.nplc.org).

### Co-Sponsored by:

The Roundtable of Diocesan Social Action Directors, USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, and JustFaith Ministries.

### Hosted by:

The Archdiocese of Atlanta

A limited number of partial scholarships are available for first time SASI attendees participating in Track 1 on CST. Diocese of Charlotte Contact: Joseph T. Purello, Office of Justice and Peace. Catholic Social Services, 704-370-3225.



*Certainly, the restoration of justice, reconciliation and forgiveness are conditions for building true peace. The recognition of this fact leads to a determination to transform unjust structures and to restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God's image and likeness. Pope Benedict XVI, (Sacramentum Caritatis, #89, February 2007)*

# Youths explore God-given 'superpowers' during DYC

YOUTHS, from page 1

"I learned what is special about me and my special gifts."

— Matthew Pohlheber

and discover their personal discipleship," said Paul Kotlowski, director of the diocesan youth ministry.

"They gathered with the diocesan church to pray with and support one another as young believers," he said.

The Diocesan Youth Advisory Council, comprised of youths from different parishes, chose the conference theme and worked to organize the weekend of events, music, Mass and hero-in-faith-themed workshops, which included topics on religion, salvation and the youths' "superpowers" — their gifts from God.

The conference "helps in getting closer to God and to learn more about our gifts and our ability to bring others to our faith," said Laura Pohlheber, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"It (the conference) helped me understand more about my religion," said Matthew Pohlheber, Laura's brother.

"I learned what is special about me and my special gifts," he said.

In one workshop, youths explored the similarities and differences of Christianity, Judaism and Islam in "Capes of Different Faiths," presented by Dennis Teall-Fleming, youth minister at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont. "Jesus didn't die just for people who believed in him. The plan of salvation is a mystery and known completely only to God."

"Those who have not yet seen the Gospel remain close to God," he said.

Saturday evening, April 26, the youths were treated to a concert by Jesse Manibusan, a Catholic signer and songwriter.

At the closing ceremony on Sunday, April 27, recognition was given to adults Stephanie Gardner and Chris Beal, who have given five years of service to youth ministry.

Other awards were presented to youths and clergy.

The St. Timothy Award, for a youth exemplifying outstanding discipleship, was presented to Molly Sanford, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

The Bishop Michael J. Begley Award, for youths involved in social justice and outreach, was presented to Patrick Finegan, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

The Bishop William G. Curlin Award, for an individual or group exemplifying outstanding pastoral care, was presented to Kathy Diener, youth minister at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. (Ingeborg Collins, a parishioner of St. Mary Church in Shelby, will receive the award May 11.)

The God and Youth Award, for a parish personnel member who has been generous in their time and talent to youths, was presented to Teall-Fleming.

The Pope John Paul II Award, for ordained men exemplifying love for the youth of the church, was presented to Father James Hawker, vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Father Hawker celebrated the closing Mass. During his homily, he told the youths to "go forth and become heroes, and to do extraordinary things in an ordinary way."

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about diocesan youth ministry, go online to [www.charlottediocese.org/youthministry.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/youthministry.html).



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Youths make Jewish prayer tassels during a workshop at the Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest April 26.



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Hugging Mom — in person or in the heart

*Mother is name for God on lips, hearts of children*

It's three years now since we lost Mom, and while Mother's Day prompts these memories, in truth thoughts of Mom are with me — joyfully — every day.

One never knows exactly what to say to a friend who has suffered the loss of a loved one, especially a mother, but from my own experience I can honestly affirm that God fills the world when she goes with thousands of precious reminders of her presence in song and place and word.

My mom loved Mother's Day, but then she had a child's glee for any holiday, some of which I am convinced she just made up. Holidays replete with her wonderful dinners, board games, long walks and laughter restored the little community of the home.

You never really had to say anything for Mom to know everything. She knew my mind and disposition as I climbed the front steps. There was no hiding your feelings — happy or sad, worried or confident — she knew and knew what to say to lift any burden you carried to her door.

Mom wasn't all talk either. She knew how to get things done, often in far more practical and direct ways than her son, though she would permit me to think that education she worked with me to obtain contributed more than it did.

I don't ever remember seeing my mother depressed or angry. Oh yes, there were those occasions, but I don't remember them. God apparently doesn't permit it. One suspects the Moms' Union in heaven under the stewardship of dear mother Mary saw to this happy bit of situational Alzheimer's.

I do remember Mom and Dad occasionally, well, sparring. Usually over something trivial like whether Dad really agreed to go to that church meeting with her or who forgot the directions for a car trip or who advised taking the last, wrong turn.

Yet, the subtext of any such petty annoyance was unquestioned love.

Mom loved her children with perfect equality, understanding better than any court that equality seldom means the same since there is a uniqueness of spirit that needs constant nourishment.

In doling out the good things in life, whether

### Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



they be ice cream or pie, if there was not enough, you can bet that Mom would find reason just then to diet or to proclaim disinterest in her favorite treat.

Someone once defined a sweater as that which keeps a daughter warm when Mom is cold. There were no daughters for our mom, but then, as my wife of 35 years touchingly recalls, "Mom always treated me as her special daughter."

Mom died in Holy Week; it was her time. Mom loved God completely, understood him simply, and by accepting his will without resistance she taught her children to do the same.

The English novelist Thackeray once said: "Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children." Older ones too, and we remember well.

Hug your mom today — in person or in your heart. Trust me, she will know either way.

### Religious Items

U.S. Catholics who say they...



**59%**  
have a statue or picture of Mary in their home



**32%**  
wear or carry a crucifix or cross



**29%**  
wear or carry a religious medal or pin



**23%**  
wear or carry a rosary



**9%**  
wear or carry a scapular

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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## A mother whose life embraces children — and the world

*We must care about the poor to be in solidarity with Christ*

When the spotlight is put on mothers, not much is said about how we contributed to our church, community, social justice issues, aiding the poor and seeking peace.

Truth is, mothers for a long time have not been limited to a vocation defined by having raised children. We have also worked hard to try to make the world better.

Certainly a mother whose life exemplifies this on a grand scale is Marie Dennis, currently co-president of Pax Christi International and the director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns in Washington, D.C. Maryknoll is a U.S.-based Catholic missionary movement.

I knew little more than Dennis' name until I read her latest book, "Diversity of Vocations." My respect for her soared immediately when I read that she raised six children as a single mother, as I have!

As for the work she has done, she tells you simply, "For most of the past 30 years I have been involved in the work for social justice and peace."

But then if you listen to what she has to say you marvel at her inspiring accomplishments as a single parent of such a big family.

She tells how they lived in an inner-city neighborhood in Washington, D.C., with a small Catholic group called the Assisi Community, which is comprised of religious and lay people striving to live "the Gospel call to work for a more just and peaceful world."

Members put the values of Jesus into practice.

The Assisi Community members were "sharing the dangers and hopes, fears and joys of a largely impoverished part of our nation's capital," Dennis wrote. "The reality of a broken world was on our doorstep."

Yet she affirms, "My children grew in wisdom and benefited enormously from the gift of their experience in the neighborhood."

In fact, her youngest son, who grew up in that community, now describes that experience as one of "tremendous

### The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



security, of awesome encounters" with people from all over the world who visited the community — "survivors of torture and war, Nobel laureates, authors, theologians, human rights activists, community organizers, social justice advocates."

Marie Dennis was not too long in the Assisi Community when she was asked by Maryknoll to work as the director of its Office for Global Concerns.

"Our goals are clear but very long range: peace on earth, social justice and ecological integrity. We try to educate the U.S. public and decision makers," she explained.

In a conversation I had with this remarkable woman, she told me she got into her life's work when she asked herself: "Who and how am I called to be in this broken world?"

She learned too that at any time "God might spiral us out into unknown areas of life."

A primary concern for her still is poverty. She has seen poverty close up, like how in some places workers produce food and clothing they are unable to buy because they do not make a living wage.

She maintains that we must care about the poor if we are to be in solidarity with Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

Dennis tells of her life, her faith journey really, in her book. And she ends her story by acknowledging that our God is "full of surprises ... inviting us to follow in ways that we don't expect or understand — into places we had not planned to go."

But the bottom line is that we are being "invited to the fullness of life." Dennis is living proof of that.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Christ our hope in defense of life

*Most vulnerable are counting on God's love in each of us*

I'll remember those sunny spring days for a long time. The skies here in Washington, D.C. were clear and blue. The temperature, perfect, with colorful banners waving in the breeze.

The very daffodils stood tall and fresh — all to welcome Pope Benedict XVI during his first apostolic visit to the United States. It was as if creation itself were giving witness to what his predecessor had called the "new springtime of evangelization" already blossoming in the church.

What fruit might the papal visit now bear as we continue working for the protection of all life?

The theme of the visit was "Christ Our Hope." Throughout his various addresses, Pope Benedict invited Catholics to enter more deeply into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Happiness, peace, freedom and justice cannot authentically derive from any other source, even though the secular influences in culture might have us believe otherwise — that it is possible to live without Christ and still live well.

The Holy Father cautioned against "a growing separation of faith from life: living 'as if God did not exist,'" and exhorted us to remain steadfast in objective truth.

From his homily at Yankee Stadium in New York:

"May you find the courage to proclaim Christ and the unchanging truths which have their foundation in him. They are the truths which alone can guarantee respect for the inalienable dignity and rights of each man, woman and child in our world — including the most defenseless of all human beings, the unborn child in the mother's womb."

Cultivating this kind of faith takes some work on our part. As it says in Hebrews, "faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Heb 1:11), and so much remains "unseen" in our fight to defend the unborn. Such as:

— When will we have enough justices on the Supreme Court with the wisdom and courage to overturn *Roe v. Wade*? And when that finally happens, will states be ready to enact laws protecting women and their children from abortion?

— What other cultural and legislative measures will help make abortion unthinkable to men and women alike?

— Will the multigenerational wound of abortion ever start to heal?

— Will the most hardened abortion advocates come to see their deep error

## Life Issues Forum

DEIRDRE A. McQUADE  
GUEST COLUMNIST



and start defending innocent life?

Given all the unknowns, we may sometimes be tempted to discouragement. And yet, we are called to remain bold and joyful in our work, confident that Jesus Christ has already won the war against death.

As the pope encouraged us at St. Patrick's Cathedral:

"The proclamation of life, life in abundance, must be the heart of the new evangelization. For true life — our salvation — can only be found in the reconciliation, freedom and love which are God's gracious gift.

"[O]ur most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God's love."

The pope's visit surely gave witness to God's love in the world. Let us pray that it will inspire all Christ's followers to do the same — in service to neighbor and enemy alike.

The most vulnerable members of our human family are counting on it.

*Deirdre A. McQuade is assistant director for policy and communications at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# Christians must persevere in prayer for unity, pope says at audience

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite the difficulties and divisions, Christians must persevere in prayer for full unity, Pope Benedict XVI said while the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church looked on.

Just a few days before the feast of Pentecost, the pope shared the stage during his May 7 general audience in St. Peter's Square with Catholicos Karekin II, patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The patriarch and a delegation of 18 bishops were in Rome May 6-10 to meet with the pope and Vatican officials, as well as scholars and students at various pontifical institutes.

After the two leaders exchanged greetings before the 30,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict dedicated the catechesis of his general audience to the theme of Christian unity.

*Here is the Vatican's text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we welcome to our audience, His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II, supreme patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, together with a delegation from the Armenian Apostolic Church.

His presence among us, in these days before the solemnity of Pentecost, spurs us to pray more fervently for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all Christians as we seek to advance along the path of ecumenism.

The Risen Lord sent the Spirit upon his disciples, and from the day of Pentecost, the church has constantly implored the Spirit's gifts, which impel her to proclaim the Gospel before all the world.

The presence and activity of the Spirit remind us that Christ never abandons his church. The Spirit sustains our efforts to overcome division, to persevere in prayer and to work for Christian unity.

Prayer is the heart and soul of the ecumenical movement. Today, let us join in thanking the Lord for the Spirit's work in fostering ecumenical dialogue and inspiring the hope of full unity.

May the gifts of the Spirit lead all Christians to serve the Gospel with generosity and to be a sign of God's love for all humanity. With Mary, let us pray:

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love! Amen."

# The joy of faith

*Surrendering to God is gateway to happiness*

There are two kinds of faith: natural and supernatural.

Natural faith is the act of believing the information supplied by maps and weather forecasts, for example. Even though we've never met the mapmakers or the weathermen, we take it on faith, natural faith, that they are telling us the truth.

When we demonstrate supernatural faith, we do the same with the words of Jesus. We know he is telling us the truth.

Even though we have never seen him speaking directly to us, we believe by God's grace that the mysteries he taught are the truths of faith: namely, there is a God; we are his creatures; there is an afterlife; Jesus is the divine Son of God; he has come to save and lead us home to eternal life.

We believe the Lord; we are certain he would never deceive us.

Meeting Jesus is a different experience for each one of us. Being human, we have a natural tendency to pick and choose those parts of the Gospel we like, passing over the ones that make us feel uncomfortable.

But Jesus demands total faith. He is like a doctor who says, "If you don't do what I tell you, you will die." He

demands obedience for our own good.

Surrendering to the Lord is a religious act. But many ask, "What do we really know about Jesus?"

We know all we need to know.

The late Frank Sheed, a Catholic intellectual of the 20th century, had this to say:

"Jesus was never sentimental, he never wasted words. He said what had to be said, which anyone new to reading the Gospels may take a while to get used to. ... He of all men was not likely to be sentimental about sin. ... He knew what our sinful world would cost him on Calvary."

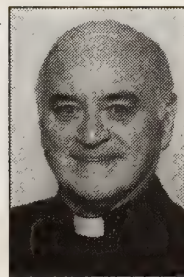
Once you trust the Lord you begin to gain a greater understanding of the mysteries of faith. For instance, if you believe that God is love, this knowledge will change your life.

If you believe the central mystery of Christianity, namely that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, you immediately know that the God of love has a human face, the face of Jesus who comes into this world to bring you hope and healing.

While you may not be able to explain the mysteries of the deposit of faith, you

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



can benefit from them nevertheless. The childlike faith of every Christian is the gateway to eternal happiness.

You do not need to comprehend the mysteries of faith fully; all the Lord asks is that you accept them.

Surrendering to natural or supernatural truths on the basis of faith is really quite a reasonable way to live your life.

Some people fear Jesus the same way they fear going to a doctor. Those who are afraid of knowing their true condition tend to trivialize the authority of Jesus.

But those who know the truth, by faith, come to love him with all their hearts. He has both the power and authority to raise the dead, heal the sick and comfort the suffering.

"In him, with him and through him we live and breathe and have our being."

It is just as St. Paul said, "I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me."





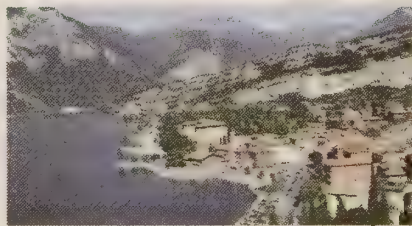
CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

A new Swiss Guard gestures during the swearing-in ceremony at the Vatican May 6. Pope Benedict XVI met May 5 with 33 young Swiss Catholic men who had joined the 110-man corps over the past 12 months.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us – St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping – it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

\*per person with double occupancy

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(704) 370-3332 – or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

## Colorful conviction

### Swiss Guards show that loyalty to church does not change, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a world of constant change, the Swiss Guards with their colorful traditional uniforms are a sign that loyalty and dedication to the church never go out of fashion, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope met May 5 with 33 young Swiss Catholic men who had joined the 110-man corps over the past 12 months. They were to take their official oaths of office the next evening.

Pope Benedict said the corps, formed 502 years ago, was always small, but always dedicated to protecting the pope and his residence.

"After five centuries, the spirit of faith that pushes young Swiss men to leave their beautiful land in order to serve the pope at the Vatican has remained unchanged," he said.

In addition, he said, "the love for the Catholic Church to which you witness with your persons more than with your words" also has remained unchanged.

"Your historic uniforms speak to

pilgrims and tourists from all over the world of something that despite everything does not change, that is, they speak of your commitment to serve God by serving the 'servant of his servants,'" the pope told the young men.

Pope Benedict asked the new guards to act as Christians in everything they do and to cultivate a life of prayer.

"Be open, simple and loyal," he said. "Learn to appreciate the differences of personality and character that exist among you because beneath the uniform each of you is a unique and unrepeatable person called by God to serve his kingdom of love and peace."

Pope Benedict told the guards that the corps is not simply a professional military organization, but also is "a school of life" that can help the young men discover their vocations as Christian husbands, priests or religious.

And, in fact, he said he was particularly pleased that long-serving Swiss Guards came to the audience with their wives and children, "who are the most beautiful flowers of your families and remind us of the special love that Jesus had for little ones."



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO, POOL VIA REUTERS

New Swiss Guards prepare for their swearing-in ceremony at the Vatican May 6. Pope Benedict XVI met May 5 with 33 young Swiss Catholic men who had joined the 110-man corps over the past 12 months.

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## 'I thought it was the end of the world'



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

A local resident walks through the debris of collapsed buildings in earthquake-hit Beichuan County, about 99 miles northeast of the epicenter in Wenchuan County, in China's Sichuan province May 14.

*Chinese priests work around disruptions to assess quake damage*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHENGDU, China — Chinese priests had to work around disrupted telephone systems and damaged roads as they tried to assess the damage from the May 12 earthquake centered under Sichuan province.

Responding to appeals for aid and prayers on Catholic Web sites, Catholics across China have begun donating money and clothes to help survivors, the priests told the Asian church news agency UCA News.

The magnitude 7.9 earthquake, which hit just after midday May 12, had its epicenter beneath Wenchuan County in Sichuan province.

See **QUAKE**, page 9

## A 'gesture of courage'

*Pope defends church's teaching on artificial birth control*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI defended the church's teaching against artificial birth control and said its wisdom has become clearer in light of new scientific discoveries and social trends.

In an age in which sexual activity can become like a drug, people need to be reminded that married love should always involve the whole person and be open to new life, he said May 10.

The pope made his

See **LIFE**, page 8

## Celebrating the Mother of God



COURTESY PHOTO

Caroline Dau, a student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, crowns the Mary statue during a May crowning ceremony May 7.

## Awakening the spirit

*Catholic theologian Scott Hahn discusses faith, Mary, confession*

BY TIM REID  
SPECIAL TO  
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MONROE — More than 500 people packed Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe to hear well-known Catholic author and theologian Scott Hahn present an all-day seminar May 3.

Those expecting a dry, scholarly recitation from such a prominent biblical expert

were in for a surprise.

Hahn spoke from the heart, giving personal testimony of how he converted to Catholicism from his former life as an anti-Catholic, Presbyterian minister. And he addressed some of the great themes of the Catholic faith, such as the doctrine of

See **HAHN**, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO BY TIM REID

Scott Hahn addresses an audience at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe May 3. The parish invited Hahn as part of its year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, France.

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'Prince Caspian' review; book on Catholic Worker Movement

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Students, adults put on musicals, plays

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Americans to be among many at congress

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## IN THE HANDS OF AN ARTIST



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Barber Dominic Spadaro gives a haircut to Ron Alexy, a customer for 37 years, at Spadaro's shop at the Theological College of The Catholic University of America in Washington May 7. Spadaro, 77, has barbered for well-known theologians, nuns and young students alike for 47 years on the campus. He retired May 9.

## Barber at CUA retires with many friends after 47 years on campus

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Barber Dominic Spadaro likes to think that barbershop friends are friends for life.

For 47 years in his shop at the Theological College of The Catholic University of America, Spadaro, 77, has barbered for well-known theologians, nuns and young students alike. He has swapped stories, discussed the day's news and shared photos of children — and then grandchildren — with his customer-friends.

He has been a confidant to some and offered advice to others. It comes with his job, especially for someone as familiar as Spadaro has been around the Catholic University campus.

"I get a lot of pleasure from other people's pleasure," he said. "It's a one-on-one kind of relationship. And that's very special."

Spadaro's tenure as a professional barber came to an end May 9, when he cleaned his clippers and folded his crisp striped aprons one last time in his small shop at Theological College and retired to pursue his love of painting, gardening and spending time with family.

For Spadaro, being a barber has been more than just cutting hair. To a certain extent, it's an art, he said. "There's kind of a three-dimensional thing to it," he said. "Painting is a one-dimensional exercise. Even the terminology often used (is of) sculpting hair."

"Every haircut is a challenge. And you never really get used to it even though you do the same person over and over again. It's always a new experience," he said. "My aim is to make them happy. I'm a very painstaking worker."

It's that painstaking approach to

just about everything he does that led Spadaro, a member of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church in Bethesda, Md., to turn to barbering as a career even as his heart was set on becoming an artist.

As a youngster Spadaro would watch and learn from his father, Joseph, who learned the craft of barbering in his homeland of Italy. When times were busy in the family-run shop, Joseph Spadaro would ask his young son to help cut hair.

Spadaro soon took off for Europe to pursue his dream as a painter, but he floated back and forth between Washington and Europe. Every now and then his father would suggest that he return to the barbershop to earn money while he pursued his love of art.

Finally, Joseph Spadaro asked his son to help at the barbershop at Theological College. It didn't take long for Spadaro to realize he could make a better living as a barber than as a painter.

In 1960, the younger Spadaro opened his own shop at Theological College. He has been cutting hair for those who work, study and live in the Catholic community ever since.

It's not unusual as well for old friends from across the country to show up at Spadaro's shop to say hello and get a trim.

When he puts aside his scissors for good, Spadaro will take away memories of the many friendships he has made over the years.

"They're close friendships," he said. "I look forward to their coming here as much as they do getting a haircut. We can talk and visit. The fact that I won't be seeing them is very much felt by me."

## Immigration protection extended to workers in Northern Marianas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Human traffickers were dealt a blow May 8 when President George W. Bush signed a law that extends U.S. immigration law protections to workers in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

An advocate for the workers told Catholic News Service that with the protections immigrants from China and other Asian countries will be less likely to become victims of fraud when they are recruited to work in the U.S. commonwealth, which is a group of 15 small islands just north of Guam.

Good Shepherd Sister Carol McClenon, interim national coordinator of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, said a provision of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act will reduce the likelihood that workers will end up in prostitution or in other abusive work situations.

Sister McClenon said the difficulty stemmed from unscrupulous employers who recruit workers for one type of work only to force them into another setting.

The law's provisions will not be fully in place until Dec. 31, 2017, but Sister McClenon said the law allows victims of trafficking who are not U.S. citizens to become eligible for a special visa and other benefits and services that refugees receive.

"I don't believe federalization will stop the problem, but I do believe it will significantly cut down on efforts to deliberately swoosh people in," she said.

The commonwealth has one of the lowest male-to-female ratios in the world, with about 76 men for every 100 women. About 70,000 people live on the islands, according to U.S. census figures, with more than half being non-native workers, most from Asia.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter meets the fourth Monday of every month at Debra Mattison's house, 4 Brook Meadows Lane, 7 p.m. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or [jebkraft@juno.com](mailto:jebkraft@juno.com).

HENDERSONVILLE — In honor of the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give a talk at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W., Sunday, June 8 at 3 p.m. Following the talk, P.G.A. Life member and Immaculate Conception parishioner Ron Garcia will testify to how his asthma and

allergies were miraculously cured by water from Lourdes. A question and answer session will follow, along with a reception. All are welcome to attend, there is no charge. For more information, call Ron Garcia at (828) 696-8163.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *rosary* is prayed every Wednesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — There will be an introduction to the Mass in the extraordinary form at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Wednesday, May 21, 7 - 8:15 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the traditional liturgy is welcome to attend. The Mass in the extraordinary form will be celebrated at St. Ann Church on Saturdays at 8 a.m., beginning May 31. If you would like more information please contact James Blake at [jrbake@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jrbake@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 551-0686.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Senior Group* of Holy Spirit Church meets once a month for fun and fellowship. All are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican makes Latin-language documents available online

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Latin is online at the Vatican.

Without fanfare, the Vatican's www.vatican.va site has made hundreds of papal and other documents available in a new Latin-language section.

The Latin area went live May 9. Visitors clicking on "Sancta Sedes" (Latin for "Holy See") are taken to a menu of documents arranged by pontificate or Roman Curia office.

Also posted is the complete neo-Vulgate Latin version of the Bible and Latin editions of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Code of Canon Law and the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

The papal pages — "Summi Pontifices" — cover the last five popes and include encyclicals and other major texts, as well as a selection of speeches, sermons and messages.

The last entry on the Latin pages

provides information about "Latinitas," the Vatican foundation that promotes the use of Latin.

The other languages used by the Vatican Web site are all modern: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

In recent years, some Vatican officials have made efforts to revive Latin as the church's lingua franca, but it's been an uphill battle. Fewer and fewer seminarians study Latin, and even many Vatican employees now do not know the language.

Latin has been virtually abandoned at major church gatherings like synods of bishops.

But the ancient language continues to be used at international papal liturgies. Last year Pope Benedict XVI expanded the possible use of the extraordinary form of the Mass, which is celebrated in Latin.

Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic, 'A Woman's Choice,' 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

**HIGH POINT** — An *International Festival* will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., May 18, 4-8 p.m. There will be child and adult entertainment, exhibits from around the world and antique cars. Bring a family-size serving of food to share, beverages will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (336) 884-0522.

**HIGH POINT** — *Praying, sharing and living the scripture.* Come for a scripture sharing, led by Father Joe Zuschnidt at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St. Thursdays, during May and June, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in meeting room 1. All are welcome. For more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

**HICKORY** — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Mary, Mother of God room. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, call Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail stalscoordinator@charter.net.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

**MOORESVILLE** — St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. For more information, call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572.

**SALISBURY** — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**May 19-20**  
**LARCUM**  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**May 21 (7 p.m.)**  
**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

**May 24 (5 p.m.)**  
**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

**May 25 (11 a.m.)**  
**Sacrament of Confirmation**  
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

## Pope authorizes granting of indulgences for Pauline year events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics who participate in events connected with the 2008-2009 jubilee year of St. Paul can receive a special indulgence, the Vatican said.

Pope Benedict XVI authorized the granting of a plenary, or full, indulgence in order to highlight the Pauline year and open the way to the "interior purification" of the faithful during its celebration, a May 10 Vatican decree said.

The decree was signed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican tribunal that deals with indulgences and with matters related to the sacrament of penance.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Pope Benedict established the Pauline year to run from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

The plenary indulgence is being offered to pilgrims who come to Rome, to Catholics who participate in local events connected to the jubilee year, and to those who may be too ill or otherwise prevented from physical participation.

It can be granted on behalf of the individual petitioner or on behalf of departed souls.

Cardinal Stafford said conditions for the special Pauline year indulgence include the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences: that the person goes to confession, receives the Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the pope.

The decree explained in detail some specific requirements for the plenary indulgence. It said also that individuals can obtain more than one plenary indulgence during the jubilee year, but not more than one per day.

## Salvation and surfing



CNS PHOTO BY DAYS IN THE DIOCESES/FIONA BASILE, REUTERS

Surfers welcome the World Youth Day cross and icon on Bell's Beach near Melbourne, Australia, May 8. The cross and icon have been carried thousands of miles through Australia in advance of World Youth Day in July.

## Vatican astronomer says if aliens exist, they may not need redemption

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If aliens exist, they may be a different life form that does not need Christ's redemption, the Vatican's chief astronomer said.

Jesuit Father Jose Funes, director of the Vatican Observatory, said Christians should consider alien life as an "extraterrestrial brother" and a part of God's creation.

Father Funes made the remarks in the May 13 issue of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. He said it was difficult to exclude the possibility that other intelligent life exists in the universe, and he noted that one field of astronomy is now actively seeking "biomarkers" in spectrum analysis of other stars and planets.

These potential forms of life could include those that have no need of oxygen or hydrogen, he said. Just as God created multiple forms of life on earth, he said, there may be diverse forms throughout

the universe.

"This is not in contrast with the faith, because we cannot place limits on the creative freedom of God," he said.

"To use St. Francis' words, if we consider earthly creatures as 'brothers' and 'sisters,' why can't we also speak of an 'extraterrestrial brother?'" he said.

Asked about implications that the discovery of alien life might pose for Christian redemption, Father Funes cited the Gospel parable of the shepherd who left his flock of 99 sheep in order to search for the one that was lost.

"We who belong to the human race could really be that lost sheep, the sinners who need a pastor," he said. "God became man in Jesus in order to save us. So if there are also other intelligent beings, it's not a given that they need redemption. They might have remained in full friendship with their creator."



## CSS achieves accreditation for international adoptions

*Program in 'substantial compliance' with convention standards*

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte is in compliance with accreditation standards to ensure proper international adoptions in the best interest of children.

CSS was notified it has achieved Hague Accreditation through the Council of Accreditation as authorized by the U.S. Department of State May 2.

Hague Accreditation attests CSS is in "substantial compliance with the Hague Convention accreditation standards," according to a press release from the Council of Accreditation (COA), an independent, nonprofit child- and family-service and behavioral healthcare accrediting organization.

The Hague Convention is an international treaty created to ensure intercountry adoptions are in the best interest of children and to prevent abduction, exploitation, sale or trafficking of children.

In 1994, the United States signed the treaty and agreed to develop regulations and a monitoring process for adoption service providers in the United States who work with agencies in foreign countries.

Licensed as a child-placing agency since 1948, CSS of the Diocese of

Charlotte provides professional domestic and international adoptions based on the highest children welfare standards. The CSS program emphasizes support, preparation and education.

Its international adoption program, based in the CSS Western Region Office in Asheville, places children from several regions in Russia and assists in adopting children from China.

"Achieving Hague accreditation from the Council on Accreditation has been the result of tremendous efforts by social work staff at all three regional offices of Catholic Social Services," said Gerard Carter, CSS Family Life Office director and CSS coordinator for the COA accreditation.

"We are tremendously proud of this achievement because it represents our commitment to providing outstanding international adoption services through adherence to national and international regulations protecting adoptees, their birth parents and adoptive families," he said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Catholic Social Services' adoption program, visit [www.cssnc.org/adoption.html](http://www.cssnc.org/adoption.html).

## Alpine explorers



COURTESY PHOTO

Thirty-five travelers from around the Diocese of Charlotte are pictured beneath the high peaks of the Alps in Innsbruck, Austria May 8. The group was part of a 10-day diocesan trip to explore the natural beauty and historical sites of Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria April 30-May 9. The next diocesan tour will explore the treasures of Italy in September.

## SHARING SPIRITUALITY



COURTESY PHOTO

Women take part in a spiritual exercise during a women's retreat held at St. Peter Church in Charlotte May 3.

## Women's retreat explores hope, healing

CHARLOTTE — Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Team of St. Peter Church in Charlotte recently held a retreat for women.

More than 40 women from parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte attended the retreat May 3, the third retreat for women held at St. Peter Church in the last 12 months.

During the retreat, its theme taken from Mark's Gospel, Ignatian Spirituality Team members Patricia Davies and Kelly Payne led attendees in exploring the meaning of touch in their lives, and the sense of hope and healing experienced by the women in the Gospel.

Jesuit Father Vincent de Paul Alagia, priest in residence at St. Peter Church

and director of the Ignatian Spirituality Team, opened the retreat with prayer and closed by celebrating Mass.

The Ignatian Spirituality program was established to promote and foster the spirituality of St. Ignatius in all forms of ministry within the Jesuit-staffed parish. The program consists of various spiritual events and retreats throughout the year that are developed by the parish's Ignatian Spirituality Team.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Ignatian Spirituality Team or its events, call (704) 332-2901 or visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org) and click the "Faith Formations" link.

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And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

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For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 — or email: [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



## FROM THE COVER

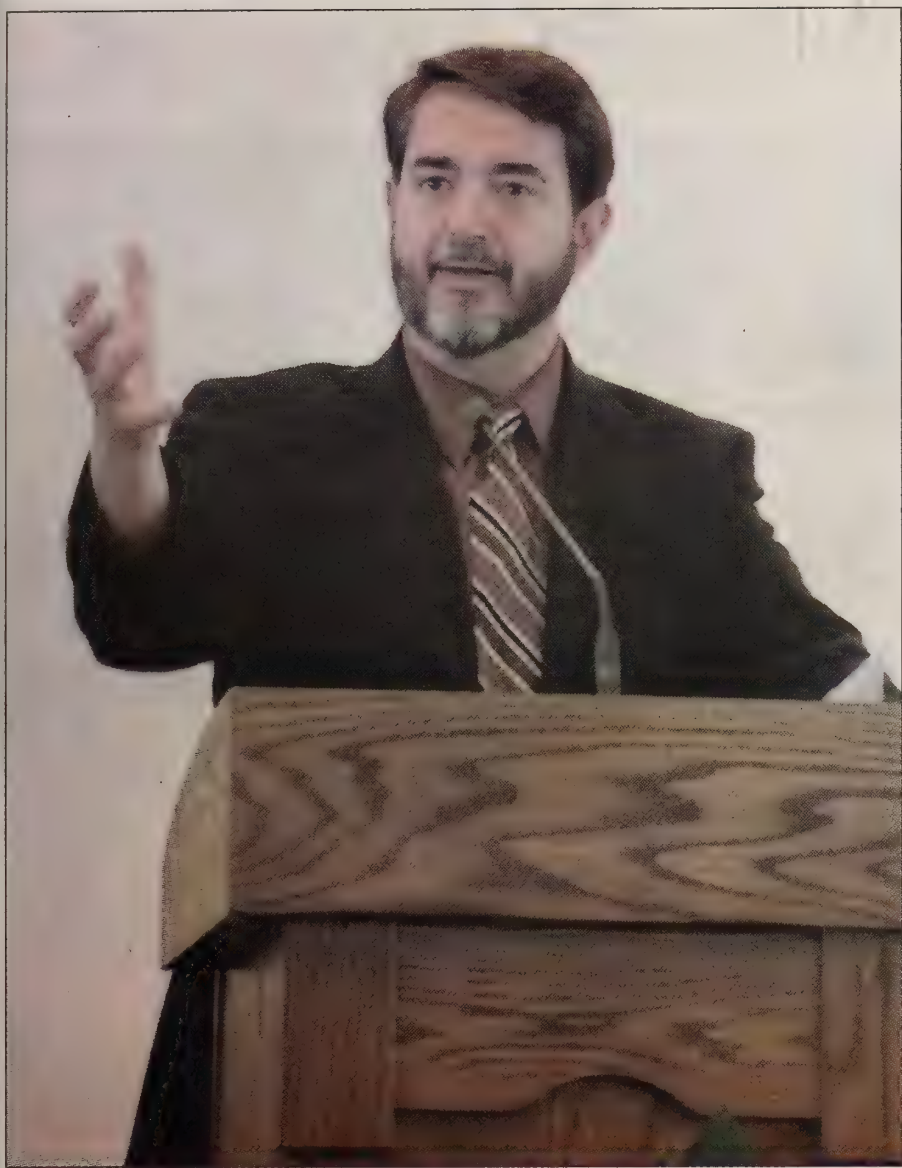


PHOTO BY TIM REID

Noted Catholic biblical scholar and author Scott Hahn speaks during a seminar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe May 3.

# Scott Hahn discusses faith, Mary, confession

HAHN, from page 1

"Jesus is the artist of our redemption."

— Scott Hahn

Mary, confession and the Lord's Prayer.

"Jesus is the artist of our redemption. Mary is his greatest masterpiece," Hahn said. "Love Jesus like Mary does, and love Mary like Jesus does."

Concerning confession (the sacrament of reconciliation), Hahn said, "The more we need it, the less we want it. ... If we don't repent, we begin to resent."

"In the New Testament we have a new grace of forgiveness by Jesus," Hahn added. "That forgiveness is conveyed to the disciples as Jesus tells them in the upper room, 'As the Father sent Me, I send you.' He is giving them the same fullness of authority."

"Our Father" is the centerpiece of the greatest sermon ever preached — the Sermon on the Mount, he said.

"God is not like our Father, he is our Father," Hahn said. "And if God is our Father, we are his family. That is the awesome truth of what it means to be a Catholic Christian."

Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church worked for months to make Hahn's visit a special event in the history of the parish, which began in 1946.

"This is a big year for us as we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of the holy mother at Lourdes," said Augustinian Father James Cassidy, pastor.

"We invited Scott Hahn and, lo and behold, he accepted," said Becky Wright, parish information technology manager. "We had 512 people registered. It exceeded all our expectations."

The event planners wanted to create a retreat atmosphere for Hahn's visit. Prior to his talk, parishioner June Bullock led attendees in praying the rosary. After the talk, the attendees broke for lunch at picnic tables on the church grounds, many of them discussing Hahn's presentation.

"I could feel the Spirit moving

within the church," Wright said.

"It was very inspiring, very moving," said Ashley Smith. "He has a way of speaking that makes you proud to be Catholic, to come alive with what you believe."

Karen Rowan said she had read one of Hahn's books, had seen him on television and was glad to be able to hear him in person.

"Father Jim had requested Dr. Hahn specifically to inspire and confirm us in our faith, and to remind us that we have one mission on earth — to be saints," said Wendy Bigelow.

"His appearance at Our Lady of Lourdes is an incredible gift that elevated our souls to God," she said.

Hahn spent the lunch hour and break time greeting the long line of people wanting to talk to him and have him sign copies of his books. He was clearly pleased by the response, but not surprised.

"Everywhere I go, I see a great spiritual awakening for the church," he said, adding that it spans all age groups and generations.

"There seems to be a great springtime of renewal. It started with Pope John Paul II and is continuing with Pope Benedict XVI," he said. "People are finding out that the church is not legalistic but radically personal."

"Even people who have fallen away from the faith are discovering they don't have to be orphans spiritually," he said. "It's like a coming home."

That touched on a point Hahn told his listeners earlier.

"We are all beggars before God," Hahn said. "He wants to bring us home and make us saints."

Tim Reid is a parishioner of the Baslica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.



PHOTO BY TIM REID

Scott Hahn greets enthusiastic well-wishers after his presentation at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe May 3. More than 500 people attended Hahn's talk.

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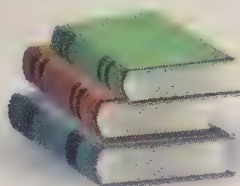


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## Celebrating Communicants



COURTESY PHOTO

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy, is pictured with children after celebrating their first Communion May 4. Pictured with Father Kloster are (from left) Julia Thompson, Brianna Monroe, Gabriel McCoy, Payton McKnight, Leslie Ponce and Carlie Whidden. Communion is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and confirmation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, stands with children who celebrated their first Communion May 4. Pictured with Father Williams are (back row, from left) Timmy Woolum, Andrew Houston, Anthony Houston, Nick Karcher; (front row, from left) Abigail Hammer, Kerrigan Beauchemin and Danielle Ashe.

## Newly confirmed



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with altar servers Ian and Joseph Grace and Adriana Higinio (left) and Kishane Lewis (right), two of the 22 youths who celebrated their confirmation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem May 4. Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and the Eucharist (first Communion).

## Rallying for Our Lady



COURTESY PHOTO

Knight of Columbus Ray Maxson is pictured with children who took part in the Semi-annual Rosary Rally held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 4. The rosary rally, which has been held in May and October for 35 years, includes praying the rosary, a May crowning ceremony, eucharistic procession and Benediction. During the procession, the children carried a float with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima; those celebrating first Communion dropped rose petals.

Pictured (clockwise from Maxson): Joseph Bruck, Anya Grant, Stephen Grant, Christiana Witt, Luke Bruck, Joseph Grant, Natasha Grant and Benjamin Bruck.

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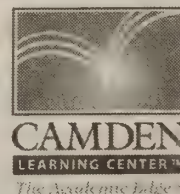
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# Crowning glory



COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem take part in a May crowning ceremony outside of St. Leo the Great Church May 9.

## Churches and schools honor Mary during month of May

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE—In the Marian Year, 1987, the Holy See issued a document presenting a ritual for honoring images of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, called the "Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

According to that document, "The queen symbol was attributed to Mary because she was a perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute 'crown' of creation."

During the month of May, Catholic churches and schools throughout the United States often honor Mary through the ceremonial tradition of May processions and crownings.

This month, several schools and parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte held events in honor of the Blessed Mother.

Our Lady of Mercy School in

Winston-Salem held its annual May crowning May 9.

"This is a long-standing Our Lady of Mercy School tradition to honor the Blessed Mother," said Linda Buchmeier mother of three attending the school.

"The eighth-graders lead the school through the ceremonial event," she said.

The students prepared for the May crowning by writing reflections on what Mary means to them and by praying the rosary each day during the month of May.

"The eighth-graders performed research on the series of apparitions by Mary that occurred to young children at Fatima and Lourdes and presented the information to the students," said Buchmeier.

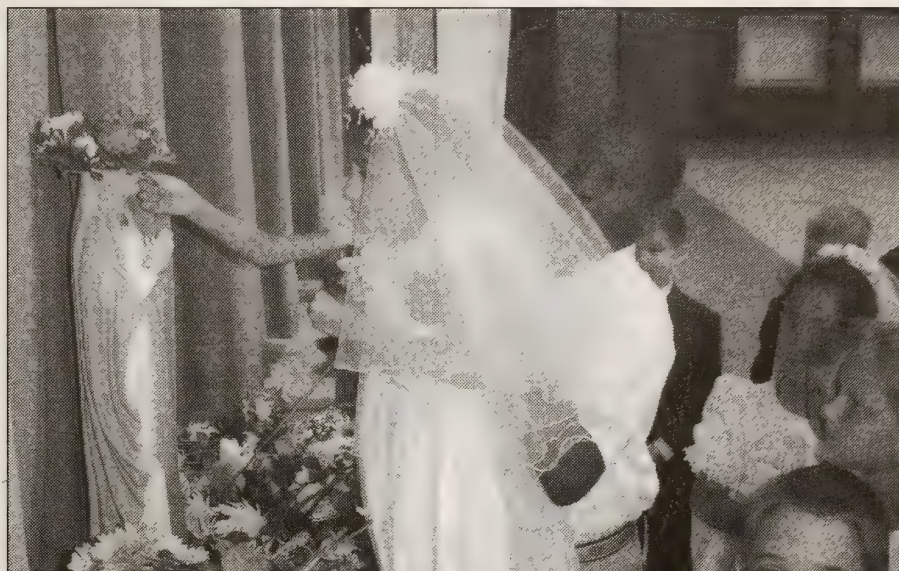
At Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, the May crowning is a joint effort between the school and



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Eighth-graders from Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem gather around a statue of Mary following a crowning ceremony May 9. Students prayed the rosary each day during the month of May in honor of Mary.

Below: Eighth-grader Gerod Kimble assists second-grader Raquel Arce during a May crowning ceremony at St. Michael School in Gastonia May 12.



COURTESY PHOTO

the parish. Second-graders from both the school and the faith formation classes at the church lead the ceremony. It is typically held during the week following their first Communion.

Caroline Dau, second-grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, was chosen to crown the statue of Mary

during a ceremony May 7. A fresh wreath of flowers was placed atop a new statue of Mary in the aptly named Mary's Garden on the church grounds.

"During May, when we honor our own mothers, it's only fitting that we honor the most Blessed Mother and be reminded of Mary's resounding 'yes' to Jesus," said Wanda Garrett, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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# Pope defends church's teaching on artificial birth control

LIFE, from page 1

comments as the church prepared to mark the 40th anniversary of the encyclical "Humanae Vitae." Issued by Pope Paul VI July 25, 1968, it affirmed the church's teaching on married love and said use of artificial contraception was morally wrong.

Addressing participants of a church-sponsored conference on "Humanae Vitae," Pope Benedict said the encyclical was a "gesture of courage." He acknowledged that its teachings have been controversial and difficult for Catholics, but he said the text expressed the true design of human procreation.

"What was true yesterday remains true also today. The truth expressed in 'Humanae Vitae' does not change; in fact, in light of new scientific discoveries, its teaching is becoming more current and is provoking reflection," he said.

The pope said the encyclical correctly explained that married love is based on total self-giving between spouses, a relationship that goes far beyond fleeting pleasures or sentiments.

"How could such a love remain closed to the gift of life?" he said.

The pope said the Christian concept of marriage respects the unity of the person, in body and soul. The alternative, he said, is a culture that considers the body an object that can be bought or sold and in which "the exercise of sexuality is transformed into a drug that wants to subject the partner to one's own desires and interests."

"As believers, we can never allow the dominion of the technical to invalidate the quality of love and the sacredness of life," he said.

The pope said this fundamental view of human life and procreation was something that goes back to the creation of man, and thus represents a paradigm for all generations. It is a key part of natural law that deserves universal respect, he said.

"The transmission of life is inscribed in nature and its laws remain as unwritten norms to which everyone should refer," he said.

Any attempt to move away from this principle is destined to remain sterile and without a future, he said.

He said it should also be remembered that true love involves a sense of sacrifice, which is part of a married couple's openness to life.

"No mechanical technique can substitute the act of love that two spouses exchange as a sign of a greater mystery, in which they are protagonists and co-participants in creation," he said.

The pope said he was concerned that adolescents today are not receiving the kind of sexual formation they need in order to make proper decisions and avoid the "risky implications"

of their behavior.

He said it does not honor to free and democratic societies when they offer their young people "false illusions" about their own sexuality. Freedom must be tied to truth and responsibility, he said.

He summed up his talk by saying that the 1968 encyclical should be looked at with a broader perspective.

"The teaching expressed in 'Humanae Vitae' is not easy. However, it conforms to the fundamental structure through which life has always been transmitted from the creation of the world, in the respect of nature and in conformity with its demands," he said.

## Abortion has not solved problems faced by women, families, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Abortion has not solved the problems plaguing many women and families in the world, Pope Benedict XVI told Italian pro-life groups. Rather, allowing for the termination of a pregnancy has "opened a further wound in our society unfortunately already burdened by deep suffering," he said.

The pope spoke during a May 12 audience at the Vatican with members of Italian pro-life groups.

"Certainly the causes that lead to a painful decision like abortion are many and complex," he said.

But while Catholics promote the sanctity of the life of the unborn, they also should "promote every initiative that supports women and families to create favorable conditions to welcome life and safeguard the family founded on marriage between a man

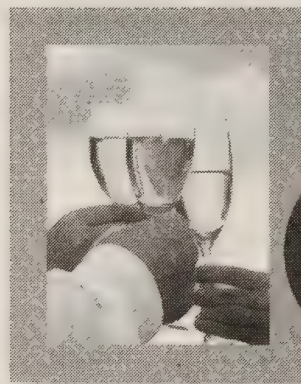
and a woman," he said.

Decriminalizing abortion "not only has not resolved the problems that afflict many women and family members"; it has also caused additional suffering in a troubled world, he said.

He said the church "cannot hide from the different problems that continue to grip today's society," such as the "unfavorable conditions" many young people find themselves in that prevent them from fulfilling their dreams for marriage and a family.

Legislation that helps today's families is needed, he said. Christians have an urgent calling and "binding imperative" to pay witness to "protecting life with courage and love in all its stages," he said.

He praised the pro-life groups and individuals for saving so many lives from death and encouraged them to continue.



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# Priests work around disruptions to asses quake damage

QUAKE, from page 1

Wenchuan is less than 60 miles northwest of Chengdu, the provincial capital.

By May 14, government officials reported more than 15,000 people had been killed in the quake, but the death toll was expected to rise. At least 25,000 people were buried under the rubble.

Father Simon Li Zhigang, administrator of the Chengdu Diocese, told UCA News May 13 that he could not reach by phone the priests serving in Wenchuan and Beichuan.

About 100 Catholics live in Wenchuan and several hundred more in Beichuan, he said.

In the Nanchong Diocese, about 150 miles from the epicenter, Sister Wang Yan told UCA News the activities room added to their church building shook for seven minutes and almost everything fell to the floor.

"I thought it was the end of the world," she recalled.

The night after the quake, dozens of laypeople stayed inside a wooden church in Nanchong because they feared sleeping in their damaged brick houses, she said.

In the neighboring Chongqing Diocese, Father Xie Bangyong told UCA News fissures appeared in some old churches after the quake, but all priests and nuns in the city were safe.

Chongqing priests divided into groups to see if parishioners were safe and assess damage to old churches, but it was difficult to contact Catholics in the affected areas, Father Xie added.

Auxiliary Bishop Paul He Zeqing of Wanxian told UCA News the residence for priests and another for nuns in Liangping became unsafe after the quake and was vacated immediately.

"Other churches, all newly built, are not affected," he said.

Bishop He led Catholics in praying

for the quake victims during a May 13 morning Mass and urged them to donate to relief efforts.

The Chongqing and Wanxian dioceses are in the Chongqing municipality, formerly part of Sichuan. Jinde Charities, in China's Hebei province, appealed on its Web site for prayers and donations for the quake survivors.

As a Catholic nonprofit organization registered with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, Jinde provided aid during last summer's flooding in Chongqing and during snowstorms around the Chinese new year earlier this year.

In eastern China, the Shanghai Diocese donated 1 million yuan (US\$143,000) for earthquake relief, the diocese's Web site reported.

Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian of Shanghai directed all parish priests to pray for victims and survivors during special eucharistic adoration sessions May 18 and donate Mass collections that day to the relief effort.

In northeastern China's Heilongjiang province, Bishop Joseph Wei Jingyi of Qiqihar circulated a prayer he wrote asking God to look after the people who were physically and spiritually wounded by the disaster.

In southern China, the Zhongshan-based Tianrun Service in the Jiangmen Diocese used its Web site to urge Catholics to donate medical aid, clothes, tents and money that it would send through the government's civil affairs department or charitable organizations.

At the Vatican, Fides, the news service of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said Catholics in the Diocese of Yi Bin, about 180 miles from Wenchuan, began organizing assistance immediately.

"One of the faithful told us, 'We are followers of Christ; we must witness to Christ in every circumstance, especially at a time like this. We are praying for the peace and safety of our brothers and sisters, for our country, for everyone,'" Fides reported.

# In desperate need



CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

People sit at their house, destroyed by Cyclone Nargis, in Bogalay, southwest of Yangon, Myanmar, May 8. Survivors with harrowing tales of villages smashed by Cyclone Nargis paddled wooden boats to Bogalay to find whole streets destroyed and food and water scarce.

# Myanmar cyclone victims try to survive amid devastating losses

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LEIEINTAN, Myanmar — Pascal Than Hlaing is just one of many who are grieving in Leieintan, a village where only one house is left standing and the Baptist and Catholic churches had their roofs torn open.

Than Hlaing mourns the death of two of his three children.

"One of my sons was swept away when the water level was up to his neck," the 31-year-old Catholic father told the Asian church news agency UCA News May 9, referring to his 6-year-old boy.

Cyclone Nargis hammered the Irrawaddy delta region early May 3 as it blew in from the Bay of Bengal, sending a wall of seawater inland for miles.

Several days later, Than Hlaing's 3-year-old son "passed away after he caught a cold."

Now he and his wife are left with their remaining son; they are being sheltered in the Baptist church because their home was destroyed.

A small Catholic Church volunteer group from the Yangon Archdiocese that arrived within days of the cyclone began assisting Than Hlaing and the rest of the 3,000 residents of the village about 75 miles southwest of Yangon.

Leieintan was accessible only by boat, given the trees, downed electricity pylons and other cyclone debris blocking the roads.

The humanitarian disaster littered the partially flooded fields in this and other villages with the decomposing bodies of people and cattle. Other bodies float past in the river.

U.N. officials have said up to 100,000 people are either dead or missing.

The Catholic volunteer group of three laypeople, their parish priest and a priest from Yangon had their work cut out in assessing the enormity of the needs in Leieintan, one of the worst-hit

in Yangon archdiocesan territory.

They arrived May 9 and the next day began bringing in food and diesel fuel by boat from Pyapon. The fuel is for running a rice-husking machine in the village and pumping out dirty water from a tank of drinking water.

The church workers also began distributing sacks of rice and clothes.

One of the volunteers, Mary Khin from the Karuna Myanmar Social Services office in Yangon, said she was "shocked" and it "pained" her to see all the dead bodies of people and animals that washed in at night over the delta.

Karuna Myanmar is the local Catholic Church's relief and development organization.

Villagers were trying to come to grips with the tragedy. About 70 were living in the one house left standing, 150 in the Baptist church, and 20 more in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The rest were staying in the wreckage of their homes.

One woman said her 4-year-old son was washed away by the flood and she and her husband climbed a tree in the dark to stay above the water, which rose to 13 feet. Almost a week later, "our first problem now is food," the 47-year-old woman told UCA News.

On May 8, Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon hosted the visiting apostolic delegate to Myanmar, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, for a tour of the disaster area. More than 15 villages simply disappeared. About 70 percent of the trees in Yangon were uprooted. All churches, priests' houses and convents have been damaged.

The church in Myanmar has appealed for international aid. The Myanmar Disaster Relief Committee, under the leadership of the Yangon Archdiocese, the local church has begun offering food, clothing, shelter materials and medicine to the affected people.

## China Earthquake

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 hit China's southwestern Sichuan province. The effects were felt as far away as Beijing and parts of Vietnam.

Source: Reuters

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Author's book examines future of Catholic Worker Movement

BY DENNIS SARDOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Although the Catholic Worker Movement in all of its nuances has carried on for 75 years, its future will depend on how community members adapt to a changing world, said Dan McKanan, the author of "The Catholic Worker After Dorothy: Practicing the Works of Mercy in a New Generation," published this year.

"The Catholic Worker is at a crossroad," said McKanan, associate professor and chairman of the theology department at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Minnesota.

"If we are headed into the worst economic crisis since the Depression, then it is a moment for the Catholic Worker to step up and articulate its vision clearly," he said.

The fact that no one person can be considered a leader of the movement today, as co-founder Dorothy Day was between 1933 and her 1980 death, says much about the Catholic Worker's structure, or lack thereof, in McKanan's view.

"It is remarkable that it has gone on for these almost 30 years since Dorothy's death," he said. "There aren't too many movements you can say that about."

That also leaves McKanan with questions about the movement's future.

"The biggest challenge in moving forward for the Catholic Worker is to be a little less reactive and a little more proactive in putting forward a personalist vision for a new

## "The Catholic Worker movement is at a crossroad."

— Dan McKanan

society," he said.

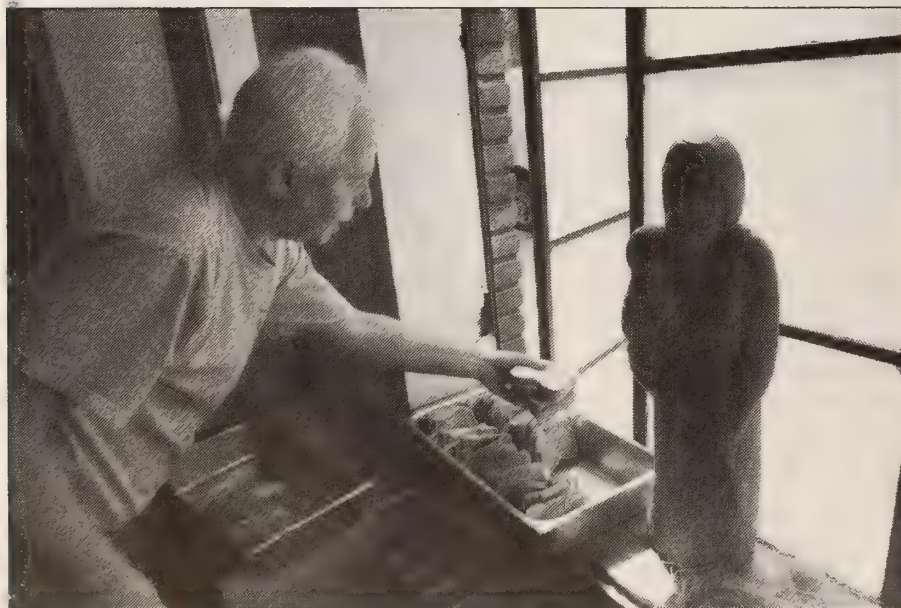
"In the early years, the Catholic Worker got a lot of attention because everybody knew the globe was in crisis and (movement co-founder) Peter (Maurin) and Dorothy put forth a very distinctive vision that you could resolve that crisis by bringing people back to the land and caring for others' needs," he said.

McKanan also sees the movement being challenged to "transition to the next generation of leaders."

Catholic Worker houses of hospitality opened during the 1980s have not survived at the same rate as those opening in the two previous decades.

As a friend of the movement, McKanan believes the Catholic Worker must promote a wider range of community models, those that "stir the enthusiasm" of young people who may be attracted to the Catholic Worker life.

"The movement is still leaning on the Vietnam generation," he said. "It will be important for a critical mass in the next generation to make a lifelong commitment to the movement."



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. S. HEMITZ

Full-time volunteer Jim Reagan prepares bread that will be served along with soup to people in need at the Catholic Worker's St. Joseph House in New York May 1, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Worker Movement. A new book, "The Catholic Worker After Dorothy: Practicing the Works of Mercy in a New Generation," was published this year.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 25, 2008

### May 25, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

#### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a  
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
Gospel: John 6:51-58

### We are nourished by Christ's presence in us

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We sat at the Easter Vigil Mass valiantly trying to stay awake. My friends Tom and Leah, their teenage daughter, Michelle, and I had arrived in this remote Haitian village in the late afternoon after traveling 12 hours.

But it was midnight before the Mass began.

We weren't a bit tired when we first got there because of the excitement of being reunited with our friends. Our church community in Virginia and the parish in Cabestor, Haiti, have had a partnership for a dozen years.

Guided by Tom and Haitian pastor Father Hermann, the parishes together have built three schools and developed several other projects there. In the process, our friendship has become very personal and close.

So when we get together, it's like a family reunion.

Every time a group from our parish visits, our Haitian friends ask by name about members of our church whom they know — even if they only spent a few days with them years ago.

The Virginia parishioners have

come to know the Haitians from stories and photos and from Father Hermann's periodic visits to our church.

There is a palpable sense of oneness among the people of both communities, largely because our relationship is based on our shared faith in Jesus — something we continuously talk about and celebrate openly together.

We understand, experientially, this weekend's reading from Corinthians that says we, though many, are one body because we all partake of the same life of Christ.

Whenever I go to Haiti, I am blessed by intense experiences of Jesus, both through old friends and new people I meet each time. We are nourished by his real presence in each other.

In that late Easter watch, we were crowded in among our Haitian brothers and sisters, our skin touching theirs. When Father Hermann offered the eucharistic prayer, he movingly, lovingly reminded us how the blood of Christ flows through his body.

Holding the cup aloft he said, "He took the cup. He remembered Tom, he remembered Leah, he remembered Michelle, he remembered Jean, and he remembered all of us. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said, take this, all of you, and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood."

#### Questions:

How have you experienced being many, but one body, in Christ? How do you — or will you — allow your life to flow into another as nourishment?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16)

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18-24

Sunday (Most Holy Trinity), Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, Daniel 3:52-56, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; Monday, James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; Tuesday (St. Bernardine), James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; Wednesday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions), James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40; Thursday (St. Rita of Cascia), James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50; Friday, James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12; Saturday, James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 25-31

Sunday (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ), Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; Monday (St. Philip Neri), 1 Peter 1:3-9, Mark 10:17-27; Tuesday (St. Augustine of Canterbury), 1 Peter 1:10-16, Mark 10:28-31; Wednesday, 1 Peter 1:18-25, Mark 10:32-45; Thursday, 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Mark 10:46-52; Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus), Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; Saturday (Visitation of the Virgin Mary), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:39-56.

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## 'In the spirit of peace and love'

*Pope welcomes Chinese orchestra to Vatican, greets nation's Catholics*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In welcoming China's Philharmonic Orchestra to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said he was extending a hand of friendship to the Chinese people and greeting the country's Catholics.

The pope also wished the people of China well in their preparations for the upcoming Olympics, calling the games "an event of great importance for the entire human family."

The Beijing-based, state-run orchestra, together with the Shanghai Opera House Chorus, performed for the first time a concert in honor of the pope in the Vatican's Paul VI hall May 8. Led by conductor Yu Long, the 145 musicians and singers performed Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem" and a Chinese folk song, "Jasmine Flower."

Some 7,000 people, including top Vatican officials and diplomats, attended the hourlong concert.

Before the performance, Yu said the concert was of "historical significance" and said he hoped it would "help spread a message of peace and love."

"As the leading symphony in China, it is our unwavering belief that music can serve as a powerful instrument to deepen cultural understanding among people of all nations," Yu said.

He said the musical repertoire chosen for that evening "reflects the value of every man and woman in the world, regardless of cultural difference, in the spirit of peace and love."

The pope, an aficionado of Mozart and classical music, sat in a special chair in the middle aisle of the audience hall.

In remarks at the end of the performance, the pope said, "Music and art in general can serve as a privileged instrument for encounter and reciprocal knowledge and esteem between different populations and cultures."

He praised the orchestra's "high-quality musical performance" and thanked the musicians in Chinese at the end of his speech. The pope noted "with pleasure" the orchestra and choir's interest in European religious music.

All different cultures can appreciate music with religious themes, such as Mozart's "Requiem," because all music "transcends the boundaries of every individual culture" and "expresses universal human sentiments," he said.

The pope said the performance also helped put the audience "in touch, as it were, with the living reality of the world of China" and helped them better understand "the history of the Chinese people, their values and their noble aspirations."

## 'Prince Caspian' charges into theaters



CNS PHOTO BY DISNEY

Ben Barnes and Warwick Davis star in a scene from the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince of Caspian." The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

### Exciting, well-crafted film marred by edgy elements

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" brings C.S. Lewis' revered mythical realm of magic, adventure and talking animals back to theaters May 16.

A follow-up to 2005's successful "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Prince Caspian" will present a Narnia, as a character says in the film, as a "more savage place than you remember."

Not only have the Pevensie siblings (and the actors playing them) grown a bit older and found themselves wrestling with teenage angst and problems (such as fighting bullies in a World War II-era London Underground station), but the story of "Prince Caspian" — with its slightly darker, edgier tone — seems to be geared toward a more mature crowd.

Granted, the increase in violence quotient is modest, and the film is well-crafted, well-acted and sprinkled with intermittent humor, themes of bravery and heroism and Christian allegory. But it also contains minor ethnic and cultural overtones and a general attitude toward war that some viewers may find problematic.

Courageous individual and communal sacrifice in the service of peace is the ultimate theme, and the costs of war are emphasized. But depicting armed conflict, no matter how honorable, as a feasible — let alone morally

justifiable — solution is another matter.

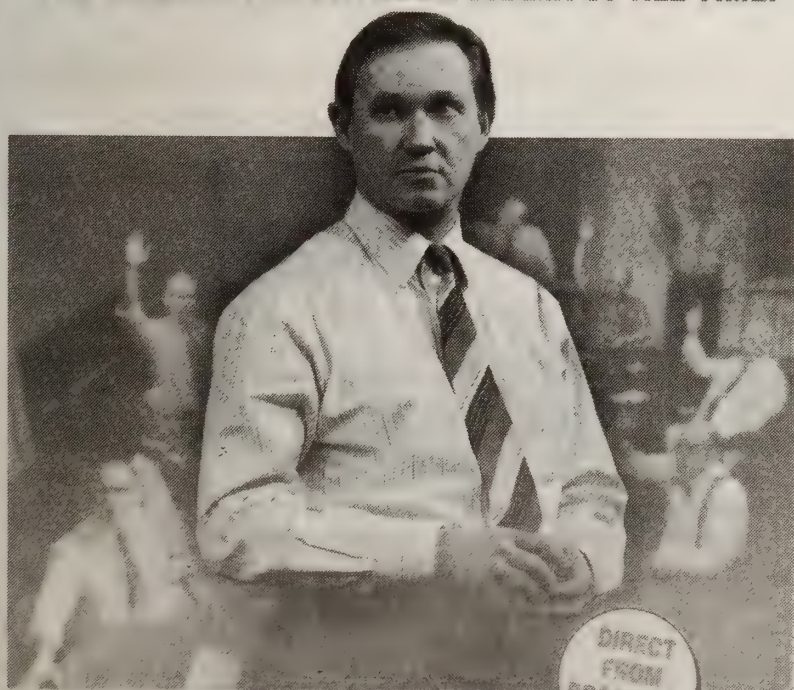
Set one year after the events in "Wardrobe" (but 1,300 years in Narnian time), the siblings are summoned back to Narnia by Prince Caspian. His uncle, Miraz, rules the kingdom following the invasion by his people, the Telmarines, who have forced Narnia's residents into hiding. The Pevensies quickly join forces with Caspian, who pledges to lead a revolt against Miraz. This leads to a climatic battle — with bloodless yet fairly graphic fighting — that will decide the fate of Narnia.

The special effects and scenery are again top-notch, and nature (on the side of the righteous and faithful) plays a key role in vanquishing the enemy. The religious allegory revolves around whether Aslan, the messianic lion, will return to help his beloved Narnians.

The film contains much battlefield violence and deadly hand-to-hand combat, a decapitation, a brawl involving schoolchildren, some intense scenes of child peril and several frightening sequences. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

John McCarthy of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, greatly contributed to this article.

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## Ready for a magic carpet ride



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students rehearse for a production of "Aladdin Junior" at Asheville Catholic School, held May 1-3.

### Students stage production of 'Aladdin Junior'

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School recently became a temporary gateway for those wanting to experience "Arabian Nights."

Students put on a colorful production of "Aladdin Junior" at the school May 1-3.

"Aladdin Junior" is a one-act, seven-scene theatre musical adapted from the animated Disney film "Aladdin." The play is a part of the Broadway Junior Collection by Music Theatre International.

"Aladdin," released in 1992, was based on a version of the story of Aladdin and the magic lamp, one of the tales of medieval Arabian origin in "One Thousand and One Nights."

The Asheville Catholic production featured colorful costumes, and music supplied by religion coordinator Rita Pisano on piano and music teacher Tiffany Gallozzi on clarinet.

"Aladdin Junior" was chosen as this year's student production "purely for entertainment," said Pisano.

"I wanted something the students would recognize. Last year's play, 'Godspell,' was completely new to them," she said.

"Next year, we'll probably do something new to them again," she added.

Tryouts for roles began last fall and were open to any students wanting to participate. Eighth-graders made up the

production crew.

Seventh-grader Bryan Head played Aladdin, the street urchin who finds a magic lamp and releases the Genie, played by seventh-grader Abbie Sigmon.

Sixth-grader Clark Wilson played Grand Vizier Jafar, who plots to overthrow the sultan, played by seventh-grader Phillip Dorsey. Seventh-grader Abby Lenderman played Jasmine, the sultan's daughter.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the cast of Bishop McGuinness High School production of "Nunsense": (from left) Elyssa Brannen, Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, Micki Sharpe, Pam Hernandez, Amy Weckworth and Tracy Shaw.

### Triad-area women put on 'Nunsense' for high school

KERNESVILLE — Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville recently staged a version of the musical comedy "Nunsense" to raise money for its drama department.

With a cast of adults from the Triad Area Catholic Schools community, the production was held at the school April 25-27.

Based on the off-Broadway production, "Nunsense" is about five of 52 surviving religious order sisters who try to raise money to bury the other sisters who died of food poisoning.

"It is a hysterical show with many

mishaps along the way," said Tracy Shaw, a teacher at St. Pius X School in Greensboro who starred in the Bishop McGuinness production.

Also starring were Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, dean of students at Bishop McGuinness; Micki Sharpe, drama program director at Bishop McGuinness; Pat Hernandez, development director at Bishop McGuinness; Elissa Brannen, teacher's assistant at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem; and Amy Weckworth, a parent of students in both Bishop McGuinness and St. Pius X School.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Relatively speaking, it's all about me

*Relativist views lead to decline of moral foundation, says pope*

A tourist riding the subway under Manhattan turned to the person next to him and asked, "Can you tell me where I should get off for the Metropolitan Museum of Art?"

"Sure," said the New York native obligingly. "Just watch where I get off and get off two stops before."

This is relativism in its purest form. Relativism is a concept that has acquired recent prominence because of pointed criticism from Pope Benedict XVI.

"Have you noticed how often the call for freedom is made without ever referring to the truth of the human person?" the pope asked at an appearance before 25,000 young people during his recent trip to the United States.

"Some today argue that respect for freedom of the individual makes it wrong to seek truth, including the truth about what is good. In some circles to speak of truth is seen as controversial or divisive and consequently best kept in the private sphere.

"And in truth's place — or, better said, in its absence — an idea has spread which, in giving value to everything indiscriminately, claims to assure freedom and to liberate conscience."

"This we call relativism," the pope said.

Relativism holds that there is no objective truth; therefore, there is no right or wrong. It asserts that there are no absolute truths or values; rather, they are all determined by time, culture, society and persons.

Relativism all but rules out the possibility of common values which makes it profoundly anti-community.

That's why relativism is popular: It's all about me. As a full-of-himself author once said after monopolizing a conversation, "Well, enough about me. What did you think of my book?"

The ability to distinguish right from wrong and the freedom to act on those decisions make the human person different from any other being, the pope said.

That isn't Catholic — or Christian — in origin. In fact, it is not new, having had its origins in Greek philosophy.

Thousands of years ago Plato dealt with the question of all things being relative to individuals, the appearance of things in the eye of the beholder and man being the measure of all things.

Many Americans believe moral truth always depends on the situation, rejecting the idea of unchanging moral absolutes in the name of freedom.

"But what purpose has a 'freedom' which, in disregarding truth, pursues

### Extra! Extra!

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



what is false or wrong?" the pope asked the young people he addressed.

A widespread skepticism about the existence of moral truths and objective moral law brings a crisis of culture. Freedom as personal autonomy is a powerful force in culture.

True freedom is the freedom to search for the truth; it is not unrestrained license.

The irony is this: That which is touted as free actually limits the search for truth because it makes us satisfied with something much less: ourselves.

"Relativist views lead to a decline of the moral foundation," said the pope. "How many young people have been offered a hand which in the name of freedom or experience has led them to addiction, to moral or intellectual confusion, to hurt, to a loss of self-respect, even to despair and so tragically and sadly to the taking of their own life?"

Relativism is popular because it is all about me, and there certainly is nothing more important than me. Advertising tells me that incessantly 24/7.

The "Me Generation" is criticized for its materialism, for its conspicuous consumption encapsulated in their contention that "they who die with the most toys wins."

At least they have a standard of measurement.

## Roadmap for a "Journey of Hope"

*Pope outlines steps, essentials for bettering world*

Pope Benedict XVI was speaking to about 25,000 seminarians and young people on the next-to-last day of his six-day visit to the U.S. when he said, "Walking in the Lord's footsteps, our own lives become a journey of hope."

He might just as well have had all Christians in mind as he mapped out this path of discipleship.

He recalled that St. Peter urged all Christians to "proclaim the Lord Christ" and to "have your answer ready for people who ask the reason for the hope that is within you" (1 Pt 3:15).

This successor of Peter repeated St. Peter's challenge, sharing "some thoughts about being disciples of Jesus Christ."

Pope Benedict described discipleship as "walking in the Lord's footsteps." Take that walk, he said, and your life becomes "a journey of hope."

Twice in the talk the pope urged his hearers to offer "an outstretched hand of hope" to those they meet along the way, and by that simple gesture perhaps "awakening in them a life of faith."

After recalling that his own teenage years "were marred by a sinister regime" (Nazism in Germany) that was eventually "recognized for the monster it was," he went on to say that the "power to destroy ... never triumphs."

We recall this most dramatically, he said, in the season of Easter, and he noted that the conviction that the power to destroy never triumphs "is the essence of the hope that defines us as Christians."

Unbelievers must first see some signs of hope before they will be prompted to ask, as St. Peter said they would, about "the reason for the hope that is within you," the pope said.

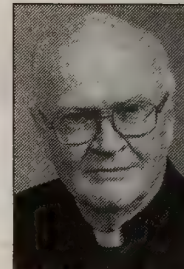
By making the "hand of hope" visible in our time, we Christians can help to dispel the darkness of heart and mind in our world.

That darkness sets in, he said, "when people, especially the most vulnerable, encounter a clenched fist of repression or manipulation rather than a hand of hope."

He had in mind those "affected by drug and substance abuse, homelessness

### Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
WILLIAM J.  
BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



and poverty, racism, violence and degradation — especially of girls and women."

Acknowledging that the causes of these problems are "complex," Pope Benedict said they are rooted in "a poisoned attitude of mind" and a certain "callousness of heart."

"Such tragedies also point to what might have been and what could be, were there other hands — your hands — reaching out," he said. "We are tempted to close in on ourselves, to doubt the strength of Christ's radiance, to limit the horizon of hope. Take courage! ... Let your imaginations soar freely along the limitless expanse of the horizons of Christian discipleship."

He then outlined a roadmap for discipleship by calling attention to "four essential aspects of the treasure of our faith: personal prayer and silence, liturgical prayer, charity in action, and vocations."

In personal prayer and silence you can hear God's call, he continued. You can "look about you with Christ's eyes, listen with his ears, feel and think with his heart and mind."

Out of this prayer "hope in action" can emerge. Putting it bluntly, Pope Benedict asked the young: "Are you ready to give all as he did for truth and justice?"

When he turned to vocations, he first praised "the vocation of marriage and family life," and then urged consideration of the call to priesthood and religious life.

In responding to your own vocational call, he said, "Remember that what counts before the Lord is to dwell in his love and to make his love shine forth for others."

### Letter to the Editor

## Better word needed to describe Latin-language Mass

I cringed when I read the headline, "Back to the 'old Mass,'" (May 2).

The word "old" has many connotations, some of them derogatory. "Latin-language" or "traditional" are much nicer words and more accurately

describe the church's Mass of the last 2,000 years. Surely you could have given a better title to the article.

— Grace Ardito  
Hendersonville

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.



# Before we go running to convert others

*Effective evangelization begins with our own conversion*

What would happen if we prayed for the conversion of Muslims as we once prayed for the conversion of Russia? Presently Muslims outnumber Catholics worldwide, and they are also out-evangelizing us.

In our ecumenical age, how should Catholics approach evangelizing Muslims or members of any other faith group? Do we aggressively pursue them, or is it more proper to respect each other's religion and co-exist in hopes that unity will result?

Cardinal John Henry Newman, a convert to Catholicism himself, once wrote, "Everywhere with Catholics, to make converts is doing something; and not to make them, is 'doing nothing.'" He then gives us his version of conversion.

"To me conversions are not the first thing, but the edification of Catholics is. ... I am afraid to make hasty converts of educated men, lest they should not have counted the cost, and should have difficulties after they have entered the church. ... The church must be prepared

for converts, as well as converts prepared for the church."

Cardinal Newman would tell us we should be more active in trying to make converts, but not in the sense of going into Muslim neighborhoods and proclaiming Catholic doctrine.

Our first priority must be to look into ourselves and ask, "How deep is my commitment to Christ and a truly Christian life?"

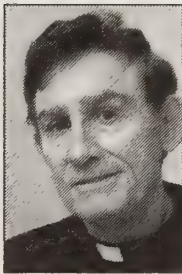
Pope John Paul II would second this, telling us, "New evangelization is not a matter of merely passing on doctrine but rather of a personal and profound meeting with the savior. ... It is important to recall that evangelization involves conversion, that is, interior change."

Years ago there in an interview with a Vietnamese communist a reporter asked, "How could your people convert to communism when your culture was French Catholicism?"

The man replied, "Because Catholics weren't very Christian; they didn't mirror Christ!"

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



Cardinal Newman and Pope John Paul challenge us to ask, "Do we mirror Christ to the point of attracting non-Catholics? Do we cause them to wonder why we love one another as we do, and what is it we have that they don't have?"

Cardinal Newman's and Pope John Paul II's love for the church ran very deep, and they wanted others to share in it. But they were also realistic in understanding that Catholics aren't all that unified.

Today especially we have many more "cafeteria Catholics" than before who pick and choose but never fully commit to the totality of Catholicism.

There is an old saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." Until we cultivate a deep love for Christ that first inspires us to be one with him and his church, praying for the conversion of Muslims and others will be much less effective.

Effective evangelization begins with our own conversion.

# Pope says real dialogue looks for truth, unity

## The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Real dialogue is not a superficial exchange of ideas, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The true spirit of dialogue looks not for the things that separate us, but for the truth" whose light will cast aside all that is false and unite on the basis of experiencing what is true, he said.

At his May 14 general audience in St. Peter's Square, the pope spoke about a sixth-century author whose writings have been attributed to a first-century disciple of St. Paul, Dionysius the Areopagite.

Instead of reading from his prepared text, the pope spoke extemporaneously about this "rather mysterious" author who created the "first mystical theology" in the Christian tradition.

The author's work is in essence "a cosmic (hymn of) praise" in which all of God's creatures praise their maker, he said.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's catechesis, we turn to the teaching of a sixth-century author whose writings have been attributed to the first-century disciple of St. Paul, Dionysius the Areopagite.

His two principal works, "The Divine Names" and "Mystical Theology," strive to present a knowledge of God which surpasses rational understanding and culminates in spiritual perfection and transforming contemplation.

Pseudo-Dionysius stresses the apophatic or "negative" understanding born of pondering God's infinite transcendence and otherness. By contemplating what God is not, and by entering more deeply into the rich symbolic language of Scripture, we grow in our relationship with the One who reveals himself in hiddenness.

Contemplation is thus an ascent leading from purification to illumination, perfection and union with God.

In the West, Dionysius' writings influenced the early scholastics and St. Thomas, as well as St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

His vision of a great cosmic harmony reflecting the beauty of the Creator and the love freely bestowed on us in Christ can also inspire our efforts to work for unity, reconciliation and peace in our world.

# Becoming a Marian family

*Suggestions for developing, deepening love for mother of God*

We've written a number of books over the years, but "Encyclopedia of Mary" is the only one we began with an apology.

After several years of researching and writing, we knew there was no way to include all the variations of all the Marian devotions and traditions worldwide.

We also knew — for certain — that Mary is loved. In country after country and culture after culture, people have chosen her as "theirs" and they see themselves as "hers." It's an amazing display of affection and trust that goes back to apostolic times.

The month of May — dedicated to Marian devotion since the 16th century — is a good time to consider how your family can develop or deepen its own love for the mother of God.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Imitate Mary's openness to God's will in her life.
- The Gospel of Luke tells us that God's invitation that she become the mother of the Messiah startled her but she immediately answered yes. Pay attention to where, when and how God is asking you or your family to do something and, imitating Mary, accept that invitation.
- Choose a family Marian devotion or image.

There are countless Marian images and devotions, many with fascinating histories or pious legends. Find one that "fits" and place that sacramental (that image) in your home.

- Ask for Mary's intercession to help your family. Say the rosary as a family, or a decade of the rosary. Add a Hail Mary to grace before dinner.
- Learn more about the four Marian doctrines of the church: Mary as the mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity and her assumption.
- Learn, too, about the particular devotion shown to Mary, which isn't "worshipping" her. Only God is worshipped. Only God is adored.
- The theological term used to describe homage shown to the saints is "dulia," and to Mary it's "hyperdulia." Adoration of God is "latria."
- Design a "Mary garden" or at least plant a few "Mary plants."

It was a medieval custom to plant small gardens with flowers, herbs and shrubs associated with Mary. That tradition was revived in the mid-20th century in the United States and Europe.

There are hundreds (yes, hundreds!) of plants that tradition and custom associate with Mary. To name just a few, there's baby's breath (our Lady's

## Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS  
CNS COLUMNISTS



veil), columbine (our Lady's slippers), daffodil (Mary's star), forget-me-nots (eyes of Mary), marigold (Mary's gold), rose (emblem of Mary) and tulip (Mary's prayer).

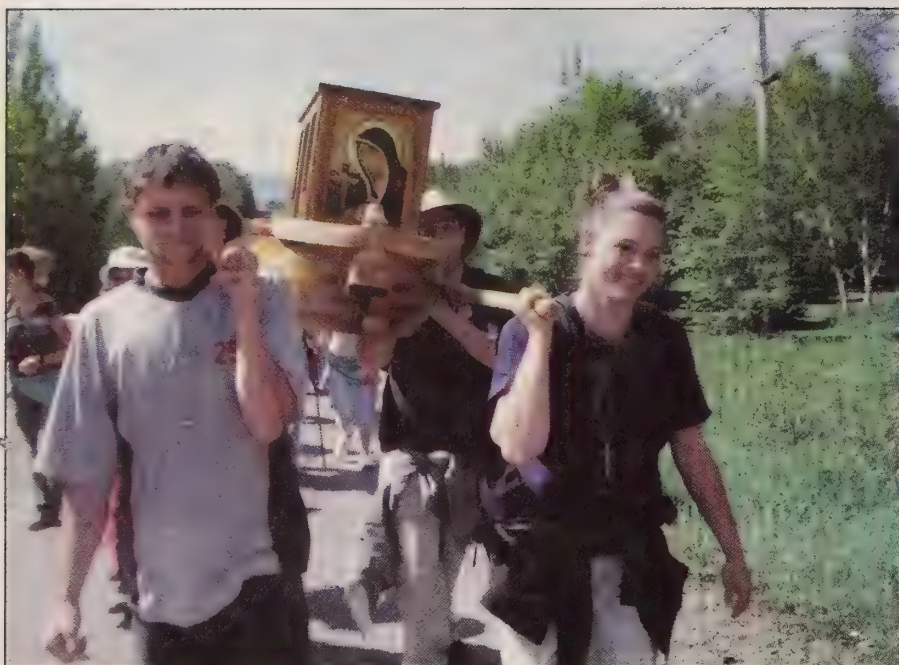
- Set up an outdoor or indoor shrine.
- It doesn't have to be elaborate: a print or statue, a few flowers, a candle. A reminder that your family can turn to "your mother" for help.
- Attend your parish's May crowning. Have your own service at home.
- Make a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine in your area.

The University of Dayton, a Marianist school, is home to the Marian Library and the International Marian Research Institute. As their Web site ("The Mary Page") explains:

"Our goal is to gather and present information about the Virgin Mary and to lead people to a loving knowledge of her. Learning more about Mary, we develop a fuller knowledge of Christ, his church and Christian life."

This is a fantastic — and fascinating — resource. Go to: <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary>.





CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Young people carry the Ark of the New Covenant in Gaspé, Quebec, in this June 2006 file photo. The ark is traveling through Canada as a means of promoting the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City June 15-22.

## A pilgrimage toward Christ

*Cardinals, bishops to be among Americans at eucharistic congress*

BY ART BABYCH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

QUEBEC CITY — About 40 cardinals and bishops from the United States are among the nearly 500 Americans who have registered for the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City June 15-22.

Not surprisingly, said Msgr. Jean Picher, secretary-general of the congress, most who have signed up are from the northeastern United States, an area geographically close to Quebec.

He said in an interview in late April that many of them also have ancestral links to Quebec, founded 400 years ago by Samuel de Champlain and known as “the cradle of French civilization in America.”

“I think this number could easily double in the next few weeks because it’s so easy to travel from the United States to Canada,” said Msgr. Picher. “And we would like very much to have American Catholics share their religious experience with us.”

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington will be the first speaker at the opening plenary session the first full day of the congress, June 16.

Archbishop Wuerl is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and chairman of the board of the National Catholic Educational Association.

The official opening ceremony and the opening of the eucharistic adoration sites are to be held June 15 in the coliseum in ExpoCite, the exhibition complex where most of the congress events and the plenary sessions will be held.

For the weeklong congress the complex is being dubbed “Eucharist City.”

“ExpoCite is a big complex where you have six or seven buildings,” said Sister Doris Lamontagne, a member of the Little Franciscans of Mary and assistant secretary-general of the congress.

“The coliseum will be used in the mornings for the plenary sessions, and we’ll use a small hall near the middle of ExpoCite for the perpetual

adoration,” she said.

The youth-inspired Ark of the New Covenant — an icon-covered chest carried on foot to the more than 70 dioceses and eparchies in Canada — will be housed in the chapel throughout the congress.

— Msgr. Jean Picher

The ark’s pilgrimage began in Rome two years ago with a papal blessing and will arrive in Quebec City May 25 for the feast of Corpus Christi.

Sister Lamontagne said that because of the ark’s travels and the publicity it has generated many people have been able to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist and the “presence of Jesus” in their lives.

As a result, the people who come to the Congress “will be an expression of the many other people who will be in touch with this event throughout the week,” she said.

There are still many details to be resolved before the congress begins, “but I think it will be a wonderful adventure,” said Msgr. Picher, who attended the International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2004.

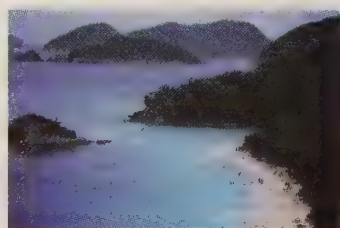
The congress is part of the celebration of Quebec’s 400th anniversary and the 350th anniversary of the appointment of Blessed Francois de Laval as Canada’s first bishop.

The Archdiocese of Quebec is the oldest diocese in Canada.

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## Perspectives

Abortion and the role of  
conscience; overcoming  
difficulties to serve church

| PAGES 14-15

## Carrying to term

*Feminists for Life president praises local outreach to pregnant college students*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The president of Feminists for Life of America recently commended a Charlotte-area Catholic maternity home for its outreach to pregnant college students.

Serrin Foster spoke to staff and board members of and donors to Room at the Inn at a reception in Charlotte May 16.

The next day, she was honored during commencement ceremonies at Belmont Abbey College for her defense of human life and promotion of women's rights. Also honored was Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh for his life of service to the church and for fostering vocations

See OUTREACH, page 6

## Challenged to be faithful citizens



CNS PHOTO BY JESSICA RINALDI, REUTERS

A woman emerges from a voting booth after casting her vote at a polling station in Berlin, N.H., during the state's U.S. presidential primary Jan. 8.

## U.S. bishops' document to assist Catholic voters

The U.S. bishops have issued a 10,000-word document on political responsibility entitled "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

The document, part of a series that has been issued before every presidential election for more than 30 years, contains several key themes on church teaching and public policy.

A summary of the document and a letter from Bishop Peter J. Jugis are included inside to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with Catholic teaching.

See pages 8-9

## Faith, fun and fellowship

*International festival brings together culturally diverse parishioners*

BY KATHLEEN HEALY  
SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — The church's vibrant spirit was felt as parishioners came together to celebrate their diverse backgrounds.

The parish's first international festival and

See FESTIVAL, page 13

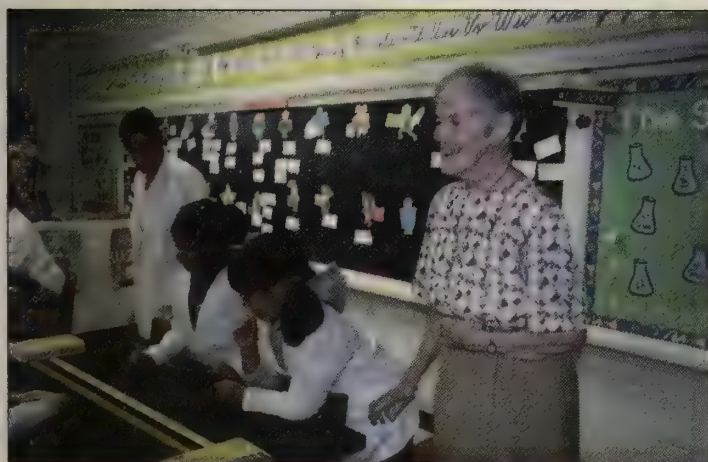


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Sister Helene Nagle, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph and principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte, watches as students perform an experiment during a first-grade science lab May 12.

## Celebrating Sister Helene

*St. Ann School principal retiring after 17 years*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "It was a regular first day of school," said Sister Helene Nagle, a Sister of St. Joseph, recalling her first day as principal at St. Ann School in Charlotte.

"The students were all dressed up and cleaned up for an exciting day," she said.

And that was just the beginning. During the next two decades, she would experience that feeling of first-

day excitement 17 more times with the start of every new school year during her tenure as principal at the school.

When it came to setting goals for that first year, she said, "I knew I needed to learn the environment first."

"You don't come in with ideas," said Sister Nagle. "You want to see how everything operates."

See SISTER, page 7

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### A Rule to live by

*Couple celebrates lives of faith as Secular Franciscans*

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### Culture Watch

*Novel follows Jesus; film school partners with Vatican*

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### Training the spirit

*Catholic volunteers to serve athletes at Olympics*

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MASS AROUND THE WORLD



CNS BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

David Heimann, pastoral associate at St. Ignatius Church in Chicago, gives a presentation to parishioners about his recent yearlong trip around the world. Heimann, 33, visited 365 different parishes around the globe in 2007 for daily Mass.

## Chicago man attends Mass at 365 parishes around the world in 365 days

CHICAGO (CNS) — David Heimann's dream was to spend 365 days in 365 different places, each destination a new opportunity to experience Christ made flesh in our world today.

"Forget about it," his spiritual director told him. "If you can forget about it, then it was nothing, but if it keeps coming back to your heart, then it is something of the Spirit, and we need to pay attention to it."

He could not forget.

Heimann, 33, pastoral associate of St. Ignatius Church in Chicago, has since made his dream a reality, having visited 365 different parishes around the globe in 2007 for daily Mass, with the support of Ad Sodalitatem, a group dedicated to "evoking solidarity in the Roman Catholic Church through prayer, education and development of the poor by building personal relationships with Christians throughout the world."

"I abandoned everything I knew," Heimann said. "I left my fishing nets at the boat. I followed."

Every day, he began with the same simple prayer: "Lord, lead me where you need me to go and show me what you need me to see." And every day he felt his prayer was answered.

On his pilgrimage, Heimann came to realize that true holiness comes from the miracle of Christ's body in the

Eucharist, wherever it is celebrated.

"The beauty of the Eucharist is not in how much gold is around our tabernacles but how we have surrounded our hearts with the sanctuary of love we experience in the Eucharist," he said.

It was in this love that he found the consistent comfort of Christ's presence throughout such constant change.

"The Eucharist was the center of the experience — even when I felt lost and abandoned, I always understood the Eucharist," Heimann said. "You can go to a poor village in Zimbabwe and still experience the same love. It was always there."

Heimann said he now better understands "the mystery of the church as being one body yet diverse in its members."

Heimann now realizes that, more than a physical journey, it is the spiritual journey that counts.

"America doesn't do pilgrimage because we think we've already arrived," he said. "We think this is the Holy Land. In doing so we've lost that sense that there's another journey that we must make, one to the center that lives in the heart of every human being."

"This discipline of being a pilgrim is recognizing that our ultimate home is not here — our ultimate home is in heaven," he said.

## Catholic leaders decry court ruling striking down ban on gay marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco and other California Catholic leaders condemned the May 15 ruling by the California Supreme Court that struck down the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

In a statement released shortly after the ruling, Archbishop Niederauer said Catholic teaching on marriage is clear and based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, who said God "made them male and female" and "for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife."

"At a moment in our society when we need to reinforce the strength of marriage and family, this decision of the Supreme Court takes California in the opposite direction," he said.

Several gay and lesbian couples joined the city of San Francisco and gay rights groups to sue the state

government to overturn the ban on same-sex marriage.

The 4-3 ruling — which said that domestic partnerships currently recognized by the state are an inadequate substitute for marriage — would make California the second state after Massachusetts to allow same-sex couples to wed.

Opponents said they would fight the ruling; the court's order was to become final in 30 days.

"This action challenges those in society who believe in the importance of the traditional understanding of marriage to deepen their witness to the unique and essential role that marriage between a man and a woman has in the life of society," Archbishop Niederauer said.

Catholic groups and others are supporting efforts to put a measure on the Nov. 4 ballot to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — In honor of the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give a talk at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W., Sunday, June 8, 3 p.m. Following the talk, P.G.A. Life member and Immaculate Conception Church parishioner Ron Garcia will testify to how his asthma and allergies were miraculously cured by water from Lourdes. A question and answer session will follow, along with a reception. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Ron Garcia at (828) 696-8163.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Mass in the extraordinary form* will be celebrated at St. Ann Church on Saturdays at 8 a.m., beginning May 31. If you would like more information please contact James Blake at [jrlake@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jrlake@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 551-0686.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host "Men's Spirituality" the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. The next sessions will be June 10 and 24. For more information, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Mondays of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, contact Deacon Jim Hamrlik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or [jrueckel@earthlink.com](mailto:jrueckel@earthlink.com).

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican to participate in expo on water, sustainable development

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it hopes its participation in a world exposition on water will remind people of their responsibility to safeguard and share this "precious gift."

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said because water is essential to survival everyone, especially the poor, has a right to it.

Cardinal Martino said that through the Vatican's presence at the June 14-Sept. 14 Expo Zaragoza 2008 the Vatican hopes to remind people "the role of humanity in protecting water will be enhanced."

The cardinal was one of a number of speakers at a May 19 Vatican press conference unveiling plans for the Vatican pavilion at the expo in the northern Spanish city of Zaragoza. The expo is also dedicated to sustainable development.

Organizers said 104 nations and

organizations were to be represented at the expo.

Cardinal Martino noted that much of what has been said recently about the earth and its resources has been "gloom and doom."

Such a catastrophic vision of the future "is paralyzing," he said, and therefore the Vatican wanted to "concentrate on water as an integral part of our Catholic faith" and "to look at what people can do while facing these threats" such as global warming and desertification.

The Vatican wants "to celebrate water as a life-giving sign of the presence of God in creation," he said.

Cardinal Martino also announced that July 10-12 the Vatican and the Archdiocese of Zaragoza will host an international congress on ecology.

Congress participants will give talks on intelligent design and people's ethical responsibility toward nature and human life.

DENVER — The Senior Group of Holy Spirit Church, 537 N. Highway 16, meets once a month for fun and fellowship. All are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, will take place at Natty Greene's Pub and Brewing Co., 345 S. Elm St. The next series will be held on Wednesday evenings, June 4, 11 and 18. Socializing begins at 6:45 p.m. Speaker begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

HIGH POINT — A Scripture sharing, "Praying, Sharing and Living the Scripture," will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays during May and June, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in meeting room 1. Led by Oblate Father Joe Zuschmidt. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7739.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Our Lady Rosary Makers of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — June 22-27 is designated as Vacation Bible School Week at St. William Church, 765

Andrews Rd. The adult classes will be led by Rev. Ben Bushyhead June 22, 6:30 p.m., and June 23 and 24, 7 p.m. The children's vacation Bible school will be held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be a closing Mass for all participants followed by a potluck dinner, June 27 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

MURPHY — *Scripture Study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters* is being offered now through the first week in August at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The classes are held on Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m. Each session includes reflection on Scripture, commentary, daily questions and a brief synopsis. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A Charismatic prayer group meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "Prayer and Discernment" June 8, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 27 (12:30 p.m.)  
Diocesan Building Commission meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 28 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

May 29 (10 a.m.)  
Diocesan Foundation Board meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

May 29 (7:30 p.m.)  
Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop McGuinness  
High School graduates  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

## Pope encourages Christians to support, engage in missionary work

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every Christian has an obligation to share the love of Christ with others and the primary means for doing so is to engage in or support the church's missionary activity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It is love that must push us to proclaim to all men and women the truth that saves with frankness and courage," the pope said May 17 in a meeting with participants in the annual assembly of the pontifical missionary societies.

The assembly brought together top Vatican officials and the 129 national directors of the missionary societies: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Holy Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

While the societies are instruments for the promotion and support of the church's missionary activity around the world, they also are expressions of each

diocese's and each nation's commitment to mission, the pope said.

The local church, he said, must be "the place where the Spirit manifests himself with the richness of his charisms, giving each of the faithful the call and the responsibility for mission."

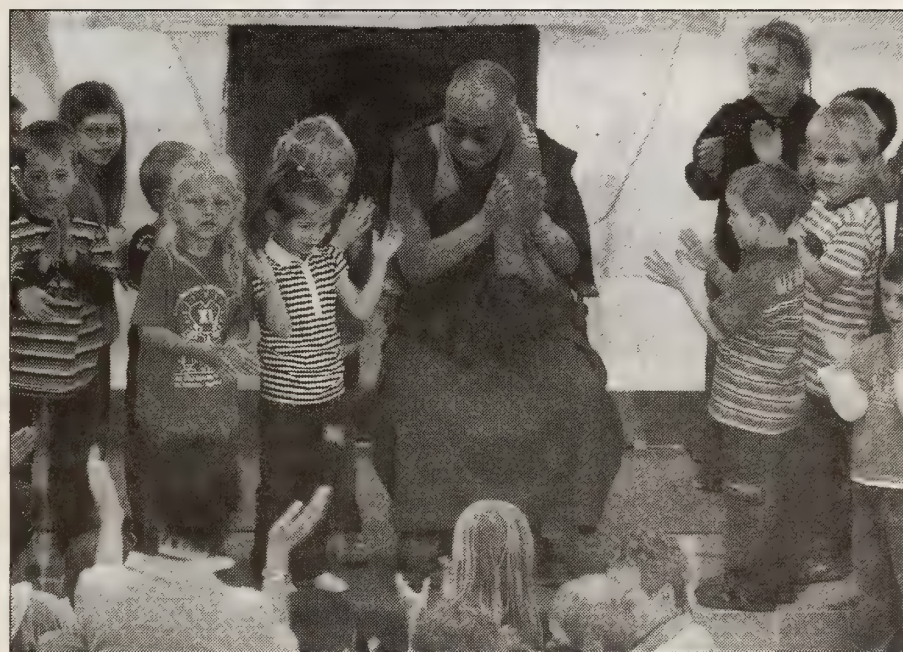
Mission aims to bring all people together into the one body of Christ, preserving and valuing the gifts of each individual person and culture, the pope said. It counters the tendency of divisiveness "rooted in humanity because of sin," he said.

"The mission of the evangelization of humanity remains urgent and necessary," Pope Benedict said.

As with St. Paul, who traveled throughout the Mediterranean preaching salvation in Christ, the pope said "it is the love of Christ" that motivates the desire to share the gift of faith.

The love of Christ is "a love that must radiate everywhere and reach the heart of every man and woman," he said.

## Hands together



CNS PHOTO BY WOLFGANG RATTAY, REUTERS

The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, claps with kindergarten students in a Catholic church in Bochum, Germany, May 16. The Dalai Lama was in Germany for a five-day visit.

## Economic toll of health care crisis threatens all, CHA president says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Adding up the economic toll on the nation caused by the health care crisis, the head of the Catholic Health Association urged the United States to "act in its own best interest and in the interest of its people" to solve the problem.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, spoke on health care reform at the City Club of Cleveland May 16. The club's prestigious Friday Forum has hosted speakers that include U.S. presidents and public figures.

Sister Keehan presented what she called "a very ugly picture of what many people in our country are having to cope

with." With the U.S. spending 16 percent of its gross domestic product on health care and other developed countries spending a median of 8.5 percent, U.S. businesses face "a serious competitive disadvantage," she said.

U.S. firms also pay twice as much for health insurance as their foreign competitors, she added, citing a recent study. But that does not result in better health care or reduced mortality in the U.S., she said.

She called the estimated 18,000 unnecessary deaths that result annually in the U.S. because of the lack of insurance or underinsurance "a silent tsunami that we are ignoring every year."



# Knightly donation

## St. Matthew Knights donate funds to Allegro Foundation

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council 10852 recently donated \$5,000 to an organization working with disabled children.

Council members presented the funds to the Allegro Foundation from the Knights' L.A.M.B. Foundation of North Carolina April 22.

This is the fifth year Council 10852 has donated to the Allegro Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works on enhancing the quality of life for children with disabilities.

"We are so grateful to the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus for their continued support through the years," said Patricia Farmer, Allegro founder and director.

"Since we are a small nonprofit organization that is not a United Way

agency, the steady support of the Knights of Columbus is instrumental in helping Allegro to continue growing," said Farmer. "We feel blessed to have them as a part of the Allegro family."

The L.A.M.B. (Least Among My Brethren) Foundation, a nonprofit public charity that assists the intellectually disabled, is supported by the Knights of Columbus councils throughout North Carolina.

Knights raise funds for the foundation through annual Tootsie Roll sales as well as corporate and individual donations.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council 10852, visit [www.kofc-stmatthew.org](http://www.kofc-stmatthew.org).



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council 10852 (back row) pose with students and volunteer instructors of the Allegro Foundation in Charlotte April 22. Pictured (back row, from left) are Knight Jack Barton; Patricia Farmer, Allegro Foundation director; Grand Knight Richard White; and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Desch.

## Cardinal receives award from Charlotte couple



COURTESY PHOTO

Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, receives the John Paul II Award from members of Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation at the Temple Beth Shalom synagogue in Miami, Fla., May 20. Pictured with the cardinal are (from left) Zaydee Lopez, foundation vice president; Bernardo Benes, foundation president; and Tony Lopez, vice president. The Lopezes are parishioners of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. The Our Elder Brothers and Sisters Foundation promotes interfaith dialog between Catholics and Jews. Though he retired as archbishop of Baltimore in 2007, Cardinal Keeler continues to serve as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations.

## Continuing mission



COURTESY PHOTO

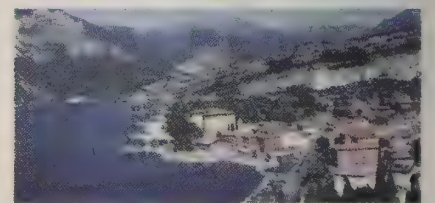
Six of the 127 youths who celebrated their confirmation at St. Therese Church in Mooresville May 16 are pictured at a party in Mooresville May 17, during which they collected approximately 25 grocery bags full of donated food items. The six youths wanted to continue their mission of community service and asked their peers to bring to the party food donations, which the youths later delivered to Mooresville Soup Kitchen. Pictured (from left) are Jonathan diBernard, Meghan Schwartz, Andrea Pratt, Eamonn Murphy, Eddie New and Courtney Reilly.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
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# A good Rule to live by

*Couple celebrates lives of faith as Secular Franciscans*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Next month, Barbara and Larry Carter will celebrate a total of 127 years as Secular Franciscans.

Larry, 90, made his permanent Secular Franciscan profession June 15, 1941; Barbara, 84 this June, made her profession June 20, 1948.

Parishioners at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, they are also members of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO).

They joined the fraternity, now located in Hendersonville, about a year after its establishment in Maggie Valley in 1987.

"They (Barbara and Larry) encourage everyone just by their presence, and they're attentive to each person," said Patricia Cowan, a charter member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity and its current formation director.

"They always see something as new; nothing ever gets old," Cowan continued. "They're just as excited about coming to meetings as they were when they first joined our fraternity. They're just very special people."

Larry credits "the example of my grandmother and my mother" for his entrance into the order.

"I think my mother (who died at age 85) was the oldest one in her fraternity. They were always helping somebody," he said.

That included people from poor

neighborhoods. "They would come over to our house, and my mother always fed them," Larry said.

Larry joined St. Elizabeth Fraternity in Southfield, Mich., about two years before he entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Lancashire, England, as a member of an engineer unit attached to the U.S. Army Air Corps.

When off duty, he visited Secular Franciscan fraternities, attending meetings in Taunton, England and Cardiff, Wales.

Secular Franciscans are "supposed to take care of the widows and the orphans," he said, so he and another soldier asked the local parish priest about orphanages. Learning that there were two nearby, both run by Missionary Sisters of St. Francis, he and other members of his unit started visiting the children.

"We'd take trucks full of GIs over to the orphanages, and the kids would really swamp them," Larry said. "A lot of the kids wrote to me after I got home."

Mustering out of the Army in 1946, Larry returned to his pre-war job, sorting industrial diamonds in Detroit, Mich.

He met Barbara at a young people's club in Royal Oak, Mich. At the end of a six-month engagement, they married Feb. 1, 1947.

Getting settled back into civilian life, Larry hadn't been to SFO meetings since coming home, but then he returned to St. Elizabeth Fraternity.

At that time, Secular Franciscans



PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Barbara and Larry Carter, parishioners of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, wear their Tau crosses, symbols of their lifetime commitments to the Secular Franciscan way of life. They are pictured in their home May 9.

observed their Rule as Pope Leo XIII had updated it in 1883. Under that Rule, if a woman wanted to join the SFO, she had to have her husband's permission. For Barbara, permission wasn't an issue.

"At the time I wasn't sure, I really wasn't, but during the year of formation it really took," she said.

What attracted her?

"First of all, the people in the fraternity," she said. "They were so welcoming, so eager to answer my questions."

Since the SFO Rule was further updated in 1978, Secular Franciscans wear a T-shaped Tau cross as a sign of their commitments to SFO life, but under the 1883 Rule they wore a white cord, with three knots, around their waists under their clothes.

"When we were professed we had to wear the (St. Francis) scapular and the cord," Barbara said. "When I was pregnant, I didn't like that."

## Humility and spirit

Barbara and Larry became parents to seven sons and six daughters in 18 years. They have 36 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

"The most striking part in family life was our (commitment to) poverty — explaining to the kids when they complained that they couldn't have something, 'Look you have everything you need,'" Barbara said.

The antidote for appreciating what they did have, she added, is to "Look around and find someone who doesn't have as much as you do. Being Franciscan, I look at things differently, at what I can forgo, what I don't need."

Larry agrees. He eventually became vice president of his company and could have afforded a luxury car, but he never bought one: "My sister used to ask, 'Why don't you have a big car?' I'd say, 'I don't need that.'"

"And I'd say that our kids are the same way," Barbara added. "Another thing that comes from a Franciscan influence is always being ready to give something to someone who needs it."

Larry volunteered with several credit unions, interviewing people to see how the credit unions could help them. Barbara did volunteer work.

After moving to North Carolina, she taught English to Koreans who attended Mass at St. Barnabas Church.

Why have their Secular Franciscan vocations remained important to them?

"It hasn't changed," Larry said. "I've always felt that call. It's a way of life that Francis followed. It strengthens your faith. I'd say, if you want to be a better Catholic (and) get closer to God, look to St. Francis, his determination. He gave up a rich life, he gave all that up to do God's work."

For Larry, it's Francis' humility. "He could have had everything, but he was just humble."

"Having the courage to embrace the leper," Barbara said, "from then on, he had an extreme love for everybody."

## Franciscans forever

Nowadays, the Carters don't drive and they have some health problems, but when a fraternity member or one of their children can drive them, they still attend St. Francis of the Hills fraternity meetings.

"I miss it, not being able to go," Larry said. "If we can get a ride, we go."

Although Barbara has severe back trouble, she doesn't let that keep her away. The examples of St. Francis' later life and Jesus' death on the cross have been especially helpful. She recalls that Francis experienced severe stomach and eye trouble and, after receiving the Stigmata, was unable to walk.

"Reading about St. Francis and St. Clare was very influential," Barbara said. "And now, when I'm in so much pain, I pray to St. Francis. He was in pain, too, and even had to be carried. And our Savior suffered for me, so I should be more than willing to bear a little pain for him."

Fraternity members stay in touch and the Carters receive meeting updates and newsletters.

"It keeps me wanting to be active when I can," said Barbara.

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# Feminists for Life president praises local abortion outreach

OUTREACH, from page 1

to the priesthood.

Room at the Inn offers pregnancy assistance for unmarried pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn. The organization recently established its In Good Company college outreach program, and has partnered with Belmont Abbey College to construct a residential facility on campus for pregnant college students.

"Room at the Inn is working to enact a dream of mine, and of Feminists for Life, to have a place on campus that pregnant women need most — with support and services — so they can have their babies and continue their education," said Foster in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

Feminists for Life was established in 1972 and works through advocacy and legislation to support pregnant women and their families. It was Foster's work and her organization's materials that motivated Room at the Inn to pursue a college-based residence program, according to Jeannie Wray, Room at the Inn's executive director.

"She inspired our board and staff to look at the situation for college women in this area," said Wray.

Foster is especially proud of Room at the Inn's college outreach in light of a survey commissioned by Feminists for Life, which revealed U.S. college campuses frequently lack the resources for pregnant or parenting students or, if they have them, students are not always aware of their availability.

The survey, "Perception Is Reality," stemmed from the pregnancy resource forums conducted by Feminists for Life, based in Alexandria, Va., over the past 11 years.

Foster moderated the first of these forums at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., in 1997 in order to evaluate resources on and off the campus.

"This survey confirms everything I have been told during the last decade," Foster told Catholic News Service. "Even when students who are not feeling the pressure of an unplanned pregnancy try to look for resources, either they can't find them or the resources are inadequate or expensive."

"Perception is reality," she added, noting that a "perceived lack of resources" can drive a pregnant woman to have an abortion or drop out of college.

The survey, released April 23, drew participants from 117 of the 400 colleges and universities nationwide with pro-life student groups. Fifty-eight percent of the schools surveyed were state schools, with an equal representation (21 percent each) of private and religious colleges.

Although some campuses offer information on pregnancy resources through posters and brochures, many of the survey respondents said they had not seen these materials.

According to the study, some colleges and universities have gone a step beyond simply providing resources and also are creating supportive academic environments for pregnant and parenting students through flexible class scheduling.

Abbot Placid Solari, chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, reached out to Room at the Inn a few years ago to offer assistance in expanding its programs. The monks of Belmont Abbey later donated the land upon which the residence will be built.

Room at the Inn hopes to build a facility that will house up to 15 women — both maternity and after-care clients. The women will be able to stay at the residence for up to two years after giving birth.

"This will allow them to finish their education and help keep them from getting locked into the cycle of poverty," said Wray.

The college also will offer a full scholarship to a mother in the program.

"President (William) Thierfelder understands the statistics and the need for

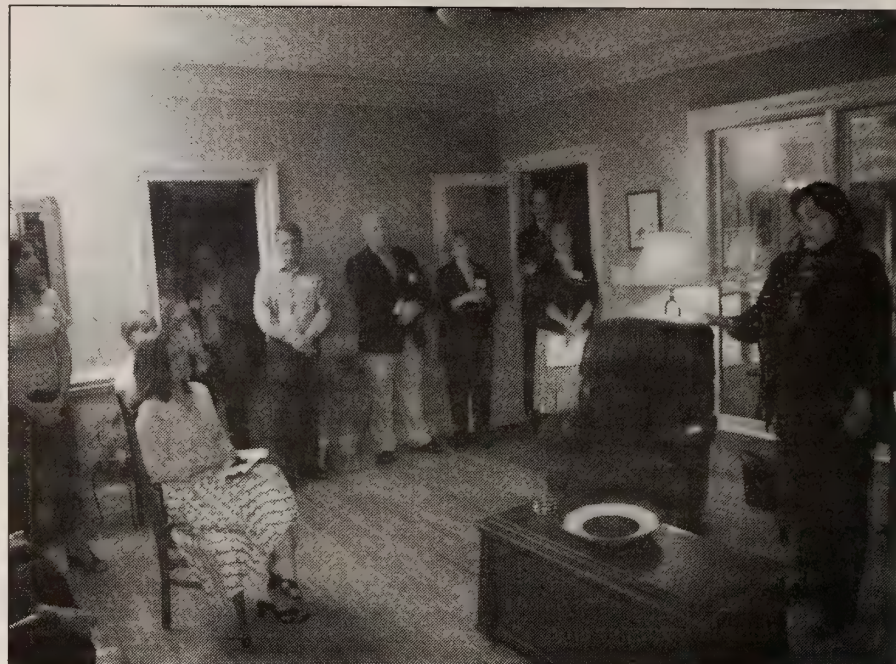


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Serrin Foster (right), president of Feminists for Life, speaks to staff and board members of and donors to Room at the Inn during a reception in Charlotte May 16.

a facility in this area for pregnant students to choose the life option," said Wray.

Materials promoting the college outreach program already have been placed in seven regional colleges.

Foster told those at the Room at the Inn reception that she was grateful for all

their efforts.

"You will impact lives here or at some other college campus that will follow what you are doing here," she said.

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

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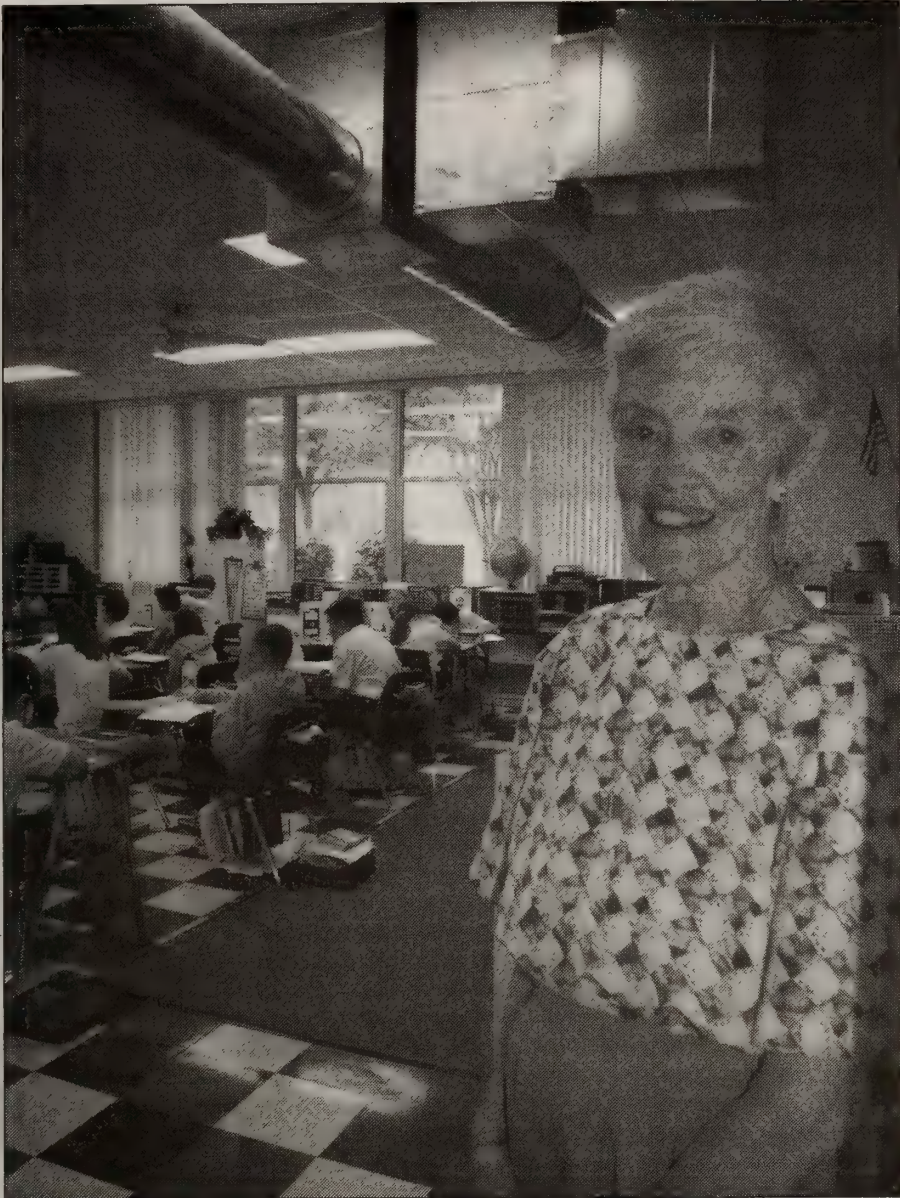


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Sister Helene Nagle, a Sister of St. Joseph and principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte, stands in the doorway of a fifth-grade classroom May 12. After 17 years as principal she will retire in June.

## Sister Helene Nagle retires at 17 years as principal

SISTER, from page 1

Ask just about anyone these days and they'll tell you that Sister Nagle has St. Ann School running like a well-oiled machine.

"Sister Helene has been an instrumental part in the success of St. Ann School," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools. "Her prayerful, caring, loving demeanor has molded the family atmosphere that exists at St. Ann."

She gets to school every day around 6:15 a.m., opens the building, feeds the fish, and waters the plants. Then she heads over to the church for the 7 a.m. Mass.

"That I value," she said. "That makes my whole day."

And after that, "There really is no typical day," she said.

"I plan for the week and often those plans go to the greater need," said Sister Nagle, adding, "One phone call can change your day."

This June marks the end of her 17-year term as principal at St. Ann School.

"I'm retiring from this job to pick up something else," said Sister Nagle, who will stay in Charlotte following her retirement. "I'll miss the school schedule and everything that goes with it. I've been in schools for 50 years."

Originally from Philadelphia, Pa., Sister Nagle grew up attending Catholic schools administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1956, at the age of 18, she entered the order.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the College of Chestnut Hill in Pennsylvania and two master's degrees — one in education administration from Catholic University of America in Washington, the other in psychology and family counseling from the College of Chestnut Hill.

Over the years, her assignments have included teaching positions and

principalships at schools in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Her first position in the Diocese of Charlotte was teaching seventh and eighth grades at St. Leo the Great School in Winston Salem.

When she started at St. Ann School in 1991, the school was kindergarten through eighth grade, there were 600 students and there was a waiting list for every classroom. Now the school is kindergarten through fifth grade with enrollment just under 200.

She has seen many changes during her years as an educator.

"The kids, teachers and parents all have different needs than when I started 50 years ago" she said.

"When I first started teaching, the classrooms had 70-plus students," said Sister Nagle. "Now, the smaller the classrooms the better."

She often compares her role as principal to a series of one-act plays.

"I'm always living in that element of surprise," she said.

But one thing is certain — faith has played a fundamental role in each and every school day.

The entire school gathers for prayer on Monday mornings. And every day Sister Nagle prays for her students and what they will be doing 10 to 15 years from now. It's something she is known for.

When former students come back to visit, "They ask if I'm still praying for them," she said. "They don't forget."

Former student Jonathan Jerome credits Sister Nagle for instilling in him a strong set of morals and values during his youth.

"She laid the framework for my future education and future as a young Catholic," said Jerome, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte who is studying theology at Catholic University of America in Washington.

"If it weren't for her, I don't know if I'd be where I am in my faith life today," he said.

Jerome said he also remembers Sister Nagle's innate ability to keep students in line.

"She'd give you that look and you'd know you were out of place," he said.

But that's not to say she takes herself too seriously.

"She has a great sense of humor," said Nancy Russo, guidance counselor at St. Ann School for the past 13 years. "She could have so much fun with the kids and then be so spiritual with them."

"We're a school that laughs a lot," said Sister Nagle.

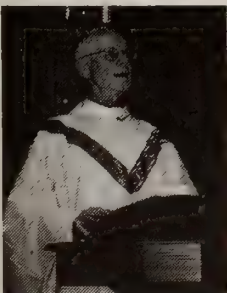
In terms of her plans for the future, she said she would like to spend more time working at the parish and visiting the sick.

"Our community slogan is 'ready for any good work,'" said Sister Nagle. "The Lord will show me what the right thing is, I have faith in that."

"Whatever I'll be doing," she said, "I know it will be with people."

Staff Writer Katie Moore is an alumna of St. Ann School and was in first grade during Sister Nagle's first year as principal.

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*"The Church, for her part, wishes to contribute to building a world ever more worthy of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26-27). She is convinced that faith sheds new light on all things, and that the Gospel reveals the noble vocation and sublime destiny of every man and woman (cf. Gaudium et Spes, 10).*

*"Faith also gives us the strength to respond to our high calling, and the hope that inspires us to work for an ever more just and fraternal society.*

*"Democracy can only flourish, as your founding fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation."*

— excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's address during the welcoming ceremony at the White House, April 16, 2008



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope that the beauty of spring and your Marian celebrations during this month of May have drawn you closer to our Risen Lord.

Every four years, the U.S. Catholic bishops call upon the Catholics in our nation to reflect very seriously on the tremendous responsibility we have as participants in our nation's political life. The title of this year's statement is "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

To assist in disseminating this statement, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed a Web site that contains statements from the U.S. bishops and the Vatican on the political responsibilities of Catholics, prayer and worship materials, educational programs, youth resources, family discussion guidelines, and clip art and logos to assist in publicizing the U.S. bishops' statement.

I encourage you to visit the Web site, [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) (en Espanol, [www.ciudadanosfieles.org](http://www.ciudadanosfieles.org)) which includes the entire text of the faithful citizenship statement.

This edition of The Catholic News & Herald includes a condensed version of the U.S. bishops' statement.

As the statement explains, the U.S. Catholic bishops "do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth."

Each Catholic has the responsibility to properly form his or her own conscience in preparation for the important role of being a participant in the democratic process.

As Catholics we believe the Catholic Church, through its teachings, plays a critical role in helping Catholics to form their consciences. A properly formed conscience, that has weighed carefully the moral and social teachings of the Church, is a firm foundation upon which "Catholics are better able to evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and action."

We are called to promote the common good by affirming the value of every human life and combating threats to human life and human dignity. When we promote the common good we must acknowledge that the direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life is always wrong, and always to be opposed.

We are required to act against policies that diminish, disregard or violate the dignity and rights to which all humanity is entitled. The most vulnerable and weakest of our brothers and sisters have a claim on our attention, our assistance and our prayers.

As you prepare yourself for involvement in the political process, I ask you to examine concurrently the teachings of the Church, the positions of candidates on the many issues that directly impact human life and dignity, and the integrity and performance of the women and men who seek your votes.

Thank you for your attentiveness to the message of "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

May Mary our Mother, patroness of the Americas and Queen of Peace, intercede for us as we seek to be faithful witnesses to the moral and social teachings of Christ and the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of Charlotte

# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

In anticipating, and trying to ward off, Catholic voter confusion, the U.S. bishops wrote a 10,000-word document on political responsibility, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," overwhelmingly approved during the bishops' fall meeting in 2007.

The document is part of a series that has been issued before every presidential election for more than 30 years. "Faithful Citizenship" outlines for voters in 2008 seven key themes: right to life and dignity of the human person; call to family community and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and caring for God's creation.

The following is a summary of "Faithful Citizenship."

Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her own formed conscience.

## WHY DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING PUBLIC POLICY?

The Catholic Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason.

As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

The U.S. Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning our central moral convictions.

Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

## WHO IN THE CHURCH SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group.

In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials.

Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

## HOW DOES THE CHURCH HELP CATHOLICS TO ADDRESS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS?

### A WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE

The church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences.

"Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778).

We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accordance with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the church.

### THE VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE

The church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1806).

Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be



# ing Consciences



panied by courage which calls us to act.

Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. Sometimes Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but not differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build a moral means a more just and peaceful world.

## GOOD AND AVOIDING EVIL

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts are always rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows for the taking of life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed. Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified.

## RESPECT FOR ANY HUMAN LIFE DIMINISHES RESPECT FOR ALL HUMAN LIFE.

Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on an issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from being supported. A candidate's position on intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive contribution to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both doing evil and doing good are essential. Pope John Paul II said, "the fact that only the negative commandments oblige and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment" (encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52). The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that a person needs to live and thrive — including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war and unjust immigration are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and call us to act.

## MAKING MORAL CHOICES

Political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that threaten human life or weaken its protection. Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work to correct morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and acting against the common good" (U.S. bishops, "Catholics in Political Life"). When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice — even if partially or gradually — without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 50). Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care and immigration. When church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this does not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of all Catholics.

## DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE? (SEVEN KEY THEMES)

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy and performance.

It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (U.S. bishops, "Living the Gospel of Life," no. 33).

The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.

### THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable.

Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism and other conditions that demean human life.

### CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies.

How our society is organized — in economics and politics, in law and public policy — affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency — food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing.

Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families and to the larger society.

### OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us — the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

### DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions and other forms of economic activity.

### SOLIDARITY

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

### CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We all are called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

### CONCLUSION

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our church and the best traditions of our nation.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For a wide range of educational and other resources on the U.S. bishops' "Faithful Citizenship," go to [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Anne Rice's newest novel follows Jesus to Cana

REVIEWED BY  
CHARLOTTE MILLER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As with her first novel about Christ, Anne Rice has used careful research and scholarship to re-create the first century world of Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus) in "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana."

This novel begins not long before Jesus' first miracle, the changing of water into wine at a wedding celebration, and, indeed, the wedding in this narrative is more significant for Jesus than we might have imagined.

Like many sequels, this book might not captivate the reader to the extent that the first installment — "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" — did.

But the reason is probably not that the novel is less meticulously researched and written than the first, but that the first book intrigued readers at least in part because of the author herself.

The explanation, in an afterword, of Rice's return to the Catholic faith after about 40 years of atheism, a time during which she wrote a number of popular vampire novels, made the first "Christ the Lord" book all the more compelling.

This time readers know the personal context, so the joy and mystery of Rice's faith are more subdued.

Still, this book has much to lure the reader into mind-stretching thoughts about the Lord. As she did with the first book, Rice portrays Jesus as a human

being, albeit divine as well.

Actually this book, more than the first, suggests her vision of him as a man.

Jesus himself narrates the text, as he did in the first book, and he acknowledges his divine-human perspective: "What I must know, I know. And what I must learn, I learn."

He recalls that Satan tempted him to "stop time," but he says he "did not come to stop it. ... I came to live it, to surrender to it, to endure it, to discover in it what it was I must do."

He fully accepts his temporary role of living in time rather than in eternity even though, as he says, "I'd always known who I really was. I was God."

Later in the book he reiterates that he is a man, with human desires and temptations.

Unlike the boy Jesus in "Out of Egypt," this Jesus is not a child seeking to understand himself but a man who, while not knowing the details of his future, does understand that he is the promised Messiah.

Some of his family members have a little more difficulty with the concept.

"Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" was published in 2005 and "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana" in 2008, so perhaps 2011 will see "Christ the Lord: The Road to Calvary" or some such title. These books are worth the wait.

*Miller is an English teacher at Mount St. Mary Academy in Little Rock, Ark.*

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 1, 2008

June 1, Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32  
Psalm 31:2-4, 17, 25
- 2) Romans 3:21-25, 28  
Gospel: Matthew 7:21-27

## God's guidelines offer happiness, salvation

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Obedience. We tend to think there must be an easier way.

We have the end of the Sermon on the Mount here in these readings. Jesus tells us to hear and obey the words of the preceding sermon with its admonishments to have pure hearts, doing our religious works of prayer and fasting so that only the Lord himself sees them, loving our enemies, praying for those who persecute us, not worrying about our material needs.

Then finally he sets out the simplicity of God's law in the golden rule, "Treat others the way you would have them treat you: This sums up the law and the prophets."

This is such a simple set of high standards, not replacing all that God has required of those who follow him, but refining all that has gone before in the law and the prophets.

But why? Why does God make even this summary set of requirements of us? Is this all for his benefit, for some

heavenly ego of monstrous proportion that demands obedience for no reason but his own glorification?

Well, no.

I once knew an author of best selling Christian books, Harold Hill who referred to the Bible as "The Manufacturer's Handbook." It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see what he meant.

If the maker of your new car tell you to put water in the radiator and gas in the gas tank, to keep the fluid level up in the master brake cylinder and the windshield washer fluid in the washer tank, you don't express your individuality and free will by doing the opposite of each of these.

You follow the instructions, knowing that the one who designed and built the car knows best what to do to keep the vehicle in good running order.

Want a good and happy life, one that will withstand the winds and the torrent when they come? Build your house on rock. Follow the creator's guidelines.

Only God knows what will make us truly happy in this life and prepare us for the life to come. Live by The Manufacturer's Handbook, and especially pay attention to the beatitudes and the golden rule.

### Questions:

How can you spend more time reading the Bible? Can you join a parish Bible study group, pick up a Scripture study guide to read along with, or establish a daily reading habit?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock" (Matthew 7:24).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 25-31

Sunday (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ), Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; Monday (St. Philip Neri), 1 Peter 1:3-9, Mark 10:17-27; Tuesday (St. Augustine of Canterbury), 1 Peter 1:10-16, Mark 10:28-31; Wednesday, 1 Peter 1:18-25, Mark 10:32-45; Thursday, 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Mark 10:46-52; Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus), Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; Saturday (Visitation of the Virgin Mary), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:39-56.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1-7

Sunday (Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32, Romans 3:21-25, 28, Matthew 7:21-27; Monday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter), 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12; Tuesday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions), 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; Wednesday, 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; Thursday (St. Boniface), 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; Friday (St. Norbert), 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mark 12:35-37; Saturday, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:38-44.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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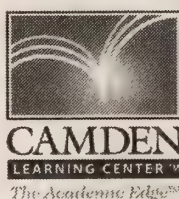


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# Film schools partner with Vatican for programs on human condition

*Programs to help aspiring filmmakers tell more spiritual stories*

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The New York Film Academy is partnering with the Vatican and a Mexican film school to offer new programs to help aspiring filmmakers tell their stories from a more human, spiritual dimension.

"Film has extraordinary potential" to delve into the meaning of life, go beyond the superficial, "transcend reality" and encounter the human soul, said Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, head of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

The archbishop and others spoke at

a May 13 press conference at the Vatican to unveil four initiatives to help future filmmakers get hands-on experience and become more effective in delivering a message about the human condition to their audiences.

The Pontifical Council for Culture, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Higher Education Center for Cinematographic Production in Guadalajara, Mexico, and the New York Film Academy are sponsoring the alternative filmmaking initiatives.

Michael Young, provost and director of education at the New York Film Academy, said a secular filmmaking

school partnering with the Vatican should not be surprising because "we see the basic question for all filmmakers is the anthropological aspect."

"We share some of the same core values" with Judeo-Christian tradition, he said, "and we're very interested in this approach to really examine the transcendental questions" in film.

He said film educators do not have "the secret formula" for showing students how to make a film that will have a powerful impact on the audience, but they do try to challenge the students to ask themselves what their perspective of the human experience is and how the

story they make in writing, lighting, directing and shooting are going to reflect and enhance their message.

Most "aspiring" filmmakers are absolutely mystified about what their film is really about," he said.

He said these joint programs will help turn students' attention to deeper themes and how they can be expressed, which should help artists produce "more thoughtful work."

Young said when the head of the Mexican film school, Father Javier Magdaleno Cueva, approached him about the programs, he asked the priest what films he thought explored transcendental questions.

"We were expecting something with very heavy religious themes like 'The Passion of the Christ,'" Young said, but instead Father Magdaleno pointed to "The Matrix" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Exploring the transcendental meanings of life is not about "indoctrination or specific religious practices or rules," Young said, "but is asking people to take the time to think about fundamental questions when making their film."

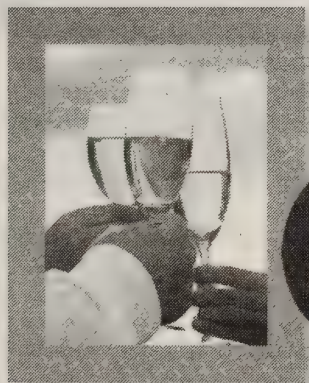
The four joint programs presented at the May 13 press conference were:

— A five-week intensive course in Guadalajara dedicated to "filming the ineffable" or the unseen.

— A master's degree in fine arts in cinematography and anthropological questions run by the New York Film Academy at Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

— An exclusive, one-year, free program at the Higher Education Center for Cinematographic Production in Guadalajara.

— Funding for first feature films exploring the transcendent.



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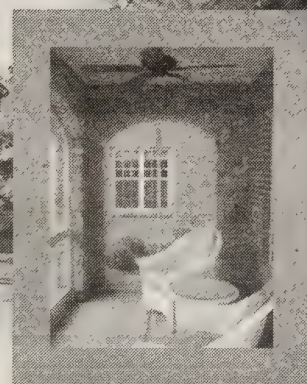


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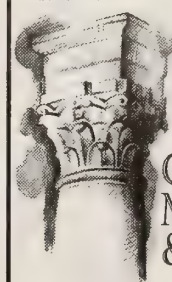
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# Around the world and into the classroom

*School showcases diversity, celebrates culture*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — At Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) School in Charlotte, every day is a celebration of diversity.

"Our school tends to attract families who are new to American culture and are looking for a place that offers an environment where all cultures are celebrated," said Allana-Rae Ramkissoon, vice principal.

This year, that cultural diversity was recognized in a special way with the third annual observance of multicultural week May 12-16.

"Our multicultural festival has become not only the forum for celebrating the 30 or so families who are originally from other countries, but the event at which we highlight the cultural heritage of each family at our school," said Ramkissoon.

In preparation for the festivities, each grade level was assigned a continent to research and study.

"Throughout the year, teachers and students have been learning about countries from the seven continents of the world through art, music, social studies, dance and literature," said Ramkissoon.

The students decorated the hallways of the school to represent the seven continents. Each grade level was responsible for giving a presentation on its continent to the rest of the school.

A multicultural Mass was celebrated Thursday morning, followed by a day of celebration that included an "international market" featuring food from around the globe and multicultural crafts and games. Students were encouraged to dress in costumes representing the different cultures they had studied.

"Our school is very diverse," said Angeline Morales, fifth-grader. "We want to celebrate and appreciate

our different heritages."

The students are not the only ones representing a broad spectrum of cultures. The school is comprised of faculty members from Chile and Ecuador and Ramkissoon hails from the Caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago.

"We feel that this school exhibits the epitome of American culture," said Marwin Gbenyon, parent and co-chair of multicultural week.

Gbenyon, who is originally from Liberia, took the day off from work to volunteer at a craft station during Thursday's festivities. Her station featured traditional African hair braiding.

Other parent volunteers helped by making and serving food at the "international market," assisting with art projects, face painting and even teaching students how to use chopsticks.

"I think this is the best way to celebrate our OLA family," said Mary Morales, vice president of the parent-teacher organization and co-chair of multicultural week.

"For me, the reward at the end is seeing all the kids trying something new," she said.

Parents were invited to come for a final hallway viewing on Friday afternoon. That night, students closed the week with the presentation of a multicultural variety show.

"OLA boasts of a school community that is truly representative of American society," said Ramkissoon. "It is one of the things that set us apart from the other schools."

"It's a small school but we have a lot of cultures," said Meghan Santschi, fifth-grader. "It's amazing how much you can learn."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A little girl learns to make a paper flower with the help of a parent volunteer at one of the craft stations. Students were encouraged to dress in costumes representing the different cultures they had studied.

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PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Two students learn to use chopsticks during a multicultural celebration at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte. The week of May 12-16 was designated as a multicultural week, a time to celebrate different heritages.



# International festival brings together diverse parish

FESTIVAL, from page 1

potluck dinner drew more than 200 parishioners of St. Barnabas Church in Arden May 10. They shared a banquet of cultural foods and entertainment from around the globe during the event at which 26 nationalities were represented.

Aided by Cathie Stout, parish volunteer coordinator, the festival planning committee sought to develop an event that would encourage dialogue, participation and interaction within the parish.

"What I wanted was for people to come and talk to each other; then this would be a success," said Kimberlee Zorich, event chairperson.

During the event, which featured the culinary and entertainment talents of fellow parishioners, the parish hall was filled with laughter, unexpected recognition of commonality and newfound respect for the diversity among the parish.

Father Dean Cesa, pastor, encouraged the committee to incorporate the festival theme into the Pentecost Masses as well. Parishioners read the Petitions first in their native languages — German, Spanish, French, Italian, Polish and Filipino — followed by the English translation.

Parishioner Vince Indelicato emceed the talent portion of the festival and personally participated with an Italian

rendition of a Neapolitan love song.

"It was my first time (emceeing) and I was a little leery, but found myself getting very relaxed," said Indelicato. "Everyone was having such a good time; it was hard to get their attention."

Laughter and fun filled the hall as the entertainment became a veritable variety show of local talent.

"All of the performers were parishioners at St. Barnabas Church," said Stout.

A blue grass band played; the Filipino community performed the Subli and Tinikling traditional dances; Marisa Panzer fiddled while her mother, Carole, danced a traditional Irish jig; Gosia Graves read a poem in Polish; and the Spanish-language choir sang songs and read a poem dedicated to the mothers in the audience.

The diverse crowd danced together and mingled in line for food and desert, talking and discovering common ground in their various backgrounds.

"It was nice to see when it was time to break down, everyone stayed to clean up," said Indelicato. "Normally, after an event, there are a few people who stay to put things away, but no one wanted to leave; within 20 minutes everything was all cleaned up."

Afterward, Zorich felt the committee had accomplished its goal of bringing the parish together. She said they hoped the festival will become an annual event.

"People here are like a second family and really care about each other. It is a welcoming community," said Stout.



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Parishioners stand in line for a banquet of cultural foods during the first parish international festival at St. Barnabas Church in Arden May 10.

## Swaying with the Spirit



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOE DIAZ

A young girl performs a traditional Indian dance during a multicultural event at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte May 17. The multicultural festivities provided an opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of the parish.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A place at the table

*Difficulties can be overcome to share in church's mission*

For me, the most moving segment of Pope Benedict XVI's trip to the United States was his meeting with young people with disabilities at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

As the Holy Father greeted the young people and their caregivers, tears of delight and gratitude sprang to my eyes.

For many others too, the meeting marked a significant milestone in the lives of Catholics living with life-altering physical and emotional challenges. The pope did more than pay lip service to those who suffer.

With love, respect and dignity he offered a place at the church's table — and challenged each of us to action.

Rather than giving a perfunctory blessing or encouraging everyone to pray for a cure from all pain and disability, Pope Benedict recognized the importance of bringing the chronically ill or disabled into more active roles in the church.

His manner and remarks reflected not pity, but piety, which underscored the importance of treating those gathered as equals in their standing as brothers and sisters in Christ.

In his message at the meeting, the pope also reminded those gathered of their responsibility to serve.

He said, "God has blessed you with life and with differing talents and gifts. Through these you are able to serve him and society in various ways. While some people's contributions seem great and others' more modest, the witness value of our efforts is always a sign of hope for everyone."

It was good to be reminded that all contributions, however "modest," are vital to the parish community's witness to God's love.

Throughout its history, the church has ministered to the sick, championed the vulnerable and taught respect for life. Unfortunately, many church communities, strapped for resources, time and support, have not been able to incorporate the chronically ill into the fabric of regular parish life.

And many people who are chronically ill often get so caught up in their illnesses and disabilities that they lose sight of the

### Living Well

MAUREEN PRATT  
CNS COLUMNIST



possibilities around them for participation in the life of a faith community.

Pope Benedict encouraged those gathered to see beyond their pain, to look with faith to see the "reason for what appears only as a difficulty to be overcome or even pain to be endured."

Our faith, he said, "helps us to break open the horizon beyond our own selves in order to see life as God does. ... Through his cross, Jesus in fact draws us into his saving love and in so doing shows us the way ahead — the way of hope which transfigures us all, so that we too become bearers of that hope and charity for others."

The pope encouraged all gathered to pray. This is an excellent way to bring the disabled into service within home parishes!

Parish prayer groups would do well to invite those who are ill to join them, blending their prayerful voices with their own. Those who are homebound can help grow a parish community's presence on the Internet through online prayer groups and Web page content.

There are many other possibilities that can be encouraged and developed among all parishioners who make the effort to communicate consistently.

I've long dried my tears since watching the pope's visit on TV. What remains, shining brightly, is renewed resolve, enthusiasm and hope.

Illness and pain can be isolating and socially repellant. But all of us have a reason to be, a reason to celebrate. We have a place at the church's table.

Now, let's step up and get busy!

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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## Abortion and the role of conscience

*Stopping a beating heart is a departure from God's will*

Pope Benedict XVI addressed the controversy between freedom of conscience and abortion on his recent visit to the United States. The pope simply said, "Freedom of conscience is a good thing, as long as it does not cause one to go against the will of God."

He made it clear that the objective norm in these matters is always God's will, not private opinion.

The pope condemned relativism in every talk he gave on his visit to America. Relativists say, "I am free to do whatever I want, as long as my conscience approves it." The church teaches that this view is totally wrong.

Think about it. Would someone have the right to rob banks if his personal conscience approved of the idea? Just try it, and you'll see how quickly the law enforcement establishment will stop you.

Private opinion never supersedes the law.

"Ah, yes," the relativist says, "but abortion is legal."

Perhaps so in the United States, but not in nearly every other country in the world; besides, an unjust law does not make an immoral act moral. We legalized slavery for a long time, but that didn't change the moral nature of slavery. Slavery is always evil.

This brings up the question: May a person receive holy Communion if he or she is personally convinced that abortion, in certain circumstances, is permissible?

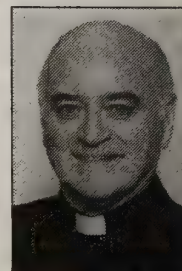
No! An erroneous conscience may be a private matter, but when one receives the Eucharist, it becomes a public act.

If the person is a politician who has publicly declared him- or herself to be in favor of keeping abortion legal and the local bishop says nothing when he receives, it could be construed as giving tacit approval to that position. But the matter is deeper than one of mere discipline.

Even though the politician's conscience may be clear, his erroneous private opinion is publicly known, and therefore he is giving scandal by showing defiance of the will of God. For his own

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



good, and for the good of the church, it is necessary to ask him not to receive.

What if the politician is privately pro-life but his public position is to keep abortion legal?

This position sounds reasonable from the viewpoint of a misguided compassion, but it is essentially a contradiction. We know there can always be mitigating circumstances in any moral act. Assigning culpability is a different matter.

A woman may be forced to have an abortion against her will, but in itself that does not make abortion "permissible in some circumstances." The abortion procedure always stops a beating heart, even though the guilt of the parents may vary from case to case.

A woman out of her mind with fear would be less culpable than a Hollywood star who calmly has an abortion in order to clear her schedule for a new movie. When full consent of the will is lacking, the subjective guilt of the parents is lessened, but the gravity of the act always remains a serious matter.

Freedom of conscience is not a license to do whatever you want. Those who believe that it is are deluded.

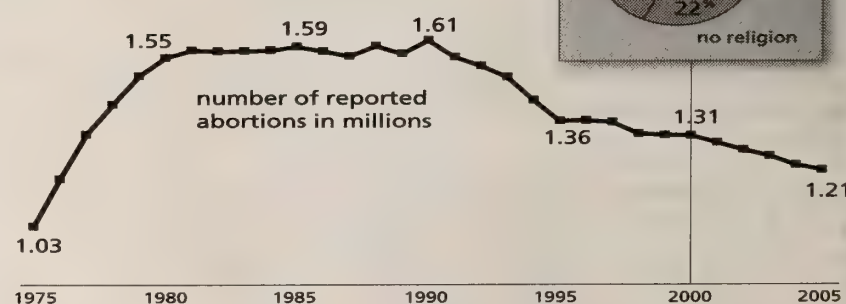
The Ten Commandments set the limits of human freedom as far as God is concerned. Abortion is clearly a departure from God's will.

It is extremely important to understand that we cannot trivialize the reality of objective evil by appealing to conscience. God is not mocked.

Relativism is a false doctrine.

### Abortions Decline

The number of reported abortions began to gradually decline in 1991 and continued to fall.



Source: Guttmacher Institute

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# Hats off to all graduates!

*Encouragement, optimism needed for big transitions*

Let's start with a top-four countdown of "Ways to Spot a Soon-to-Be Graduate" who has completed all assignments and exams):

4. He's busy practicing moving his mortar board tassel from one side to the other.

3. She breaks into deep sighing and spontaneous giggles.

2. Her parents are sighing more deeply and giggling even more.

1. He's certain that from here on out, his life is going to be all smooth sailing.

Hmm. All smooth sailing?

It takes optimism to move from high school to college or from school to "real life." And it takes courage, too. Thank God — really, thank God — that most young people have plenty of both.

Life is nothing if not a series of these rookie seasons." Again and again, we step into new situations feeling awkward, uncomfortable and unsure.

It can help to remember that, not just so we'll cut ourselves some slack when we need it, but so we'll have more compassion and understanding for others who find themselves in that situation.

It's not easy:

For a 5-year-old, used to preschool only a few days a week, to adjust to kindergarten, or for a first-grader to get used to full days.

For a middle-schooler to get into the rhythm of five distinct classes and five distinct teachers. (Not to mention changing classrooms and mastering the combination on a locker.)

For a high school student to stand up to the adult pressures and temptations teens face.

For a college student to start cracking the books without Mom, Dad or a teacher cracking the whip.

For a young employee to get used to a 9-to-5 routine while trying to safely negotiate the Byzantine maze known as office politics.

We're only fooling ourselves if we think receiving that high school diploma or college degree is our last graduation. Over and over, we complete one chapter in our lives and move on to the next.

If there's anxiety when the change is something we choose, something we want, it's not surprising there's a feeling of panic when that new chapter in our life is one we'd prefer to avoid, one we would love to just push away but we know we can't.

Chronic illness strikes. We lose our job. Our child is born with a disability. Our spouse dies. The list is long and varied, and none of us escapes having some of its items on our personal resume.

What can we do when there's no running or hiding from what life has brought us? These are a few suggestions:

Take it day by day. That's how we learn, that's how we adjust, that's how we grow, that's how we cope.

Don't get down on yourself just because you're a rookie. (No one is an instant expert.)

Don't be too proud or too timid to

## Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS  
CNS COLUMNISTS



ask for help. Others have faced similar situations and want to help.

Pray. Remember, no matter how you may feel at this moment, you're not alone, and you are loved.

## National Graduation Rates

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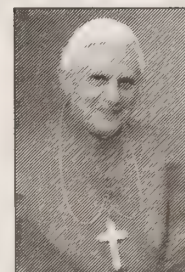
87%

Source: National Catholic Educational Association ©2008 CNS

## Christian-inspired art, music are living treasures, pope says

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICANCITY (CNS)—Christian-inspired art, architecture and music are not dead artifacts from the past, but are living treasures reflecting the beauty of God and the joy of being a child of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The Christian culture is "born out of faith, born from the heart of one who has encountered Christ" and has felt his truth and love, he said.

As long as this "faith stays alive, this cultural heritage does not die, but stays alive and timely," he said during his May 21 general audience.

The pope focused his catechesis on the life and contribution of St. Romanus the Melodist, a sixth-century poet and composer. He said this patron saint of church singers shows how powerful "symbolic communication" is when it "joins earth to heaven" in the liturgy and "uses imagery, poetry and song to lift our minds to God's truth."

The pope said creativity and innovation that bring in a new Christian culture do not discard Christianity's cultural past, but are part of the same, continuous heritage and represent "one single reality."

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's catechesis we turn to the Christian poetry of Romanus the Melodist. Born in Syria at the end of the fifth century, Romanus received a classical education, was ordained a deacon and settled in Constantinople.

His preaching took the form of chanted metrical hymns known as "kontakia," consisting of an introduction and a series of stanzas punctuated by a refrain. Some 89 of these have come down to us, and they testify to the rich theological, liturgical and devotional content of the hymnography of that time.

Composed in simple language accessible to his hearers, these kontakia are notable for their dramatic dialogues and their use of sustained metaphors.

Romanus was a catechist concerned to communicate the unity of God's saving plan revealed in Christ. His hymns, steeped in Scripture, develop the teaching of the early councils on the divinity of the Son, the mystery of the Incarnation, the person and role of the Holy Spirit and the dignity of the Virgin Mary.

Romanus shows us the power of symbolic communication which, in the liturgy, joins earth to heaven and uses imagery, poetry and song to lift our minds to God's truth.

# Wills, estates and stewardship

*Planning ahead can help ensure lasting lesson of our faith*

You have spent your entire life working, saving and preparing for the next major event, including marriage, children, college costs and retirement. Most of us never feel we have enough for tomorrow's emergencies.

What do you do then, when you don't need this accumulation of assets any longer? If you want to be proactive, you become involved in planning your estate and how you will distribute your estate over wealth.

In the big picture, we all want our heirs to be provided for, but how much is enough? There are different answers depending on the makeup of the family. Having small children and a young spouse is an entirely different scenario from being a widow(er) with adult children.

There have been a number of studies regarding the negative impact that very large inheritances can have on children. If they are not prepared, even trained, regarding the handling of wealth, they can have a difficult time adjusting to the windfall. As a result of unanticipated wealth, or unearned wealth, adult

children will sometimes live their lives in negative ways.

One of the ways to model our Catholic faith for our beneficiaries and heirs is through our final intentions in our will. Whether we give a portion of our remaining assets to our parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic Social Services or other Catholic causes through a simple bequest or through a more complex arrangement such as a trust, we let our immediate heirs and beneficiaries know how important the Catholic Church has been to us during our lifetimes and provide one last lesson, especially to our children, through our wills.

Often, estate related terms seem so "legal," but they actually may be relatively simple concepts. A "bequest," for instance, is a testamentary gift or a gift made through a last will and testament. "I leave 10 percent of my estate to my parish," is an example of a simple bequest.

Whether we give an actual dollar amount, such as \$10,000; a percentage, such as 10 percent; or the remainder of our estate after all other bequests have

## Guest Column

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



been made, we can make a significant difference with a charitable donation to our church.

Taking a proactive approach to planning the transfer of your estate is as important as the many decisions you made to acquire that wealth during your lifetime. It is even more important to remember that your last act of stewardship can also be an example that inspires your heirs and leaves a legacy of your Catholic faith.

*Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org).*





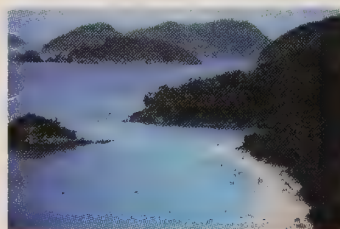
CNS PHOTO BY REINHARD KRAUSE, REUTERS

Catholic nuns pray for a successful Olympics during a Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Beijing April 30. The Beijing Diocese has designated seven priests, five nuns and four seminarians to serve athletes from around the world who will compete in the Beijing Olympics in August.

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# Training the spirit

*Catholic volunteers get ready to serve athletes at Beijing Olympics*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BEIJING — Mainland Catholic volunteers are getting ready to serve athletes from around the world who will compete in the Beijing Olympics in August.

The Beijing Diocese has designated 16 people — seven priests, five nuns and four seminarians — to join the religious volunteer service group and work alongside Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim and Protestant volunteers, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

The Beijing Summer Olympics and the Paralympic Games will be Aug. 8-24 and Sept. 6-17, respectively. A religious service center will operate in the Olympic Village during the events.

Father Joseph Zhao Qinglong, leader of the Catholic team, said the religious volunteers attended three training courses last year — the longest one lasted two months, with sessions twice a week.

"Our participation as volunteers can be a concrete service the church offers to society," he told UCA News recently.

"Certainly, we will serve all foreign athletes, government officials and visitors who need the service, hoping they will feel at home," he said, noting that the church in China is part of the universal church.

Father Zhao, who studied in Rome for five years and returned to Beijing last year, speaks English, Italian and some French.

Li Jiangang, a student at the national seminary in Beijing, told UCA News about one of the courses the Beijing Religious Affairs Bureau held last summer for 60 volunteers representing the five government-recognized religions.

The volunteers learned about the history of the Olympics, psychology, first aid, etiquette, English, customs and practices in Beijing, and the names of famous Chinese athletes, he recalled.

Li said that, based on exchanges with volunteers of other religions, they hold the common view that "the spirit of the Olympics coincides with religions' and

the state's idea of harmonious society."

So the Olympics will be "a juncture for development of the country and religions," said Li, who speaks English.

Li said he practices the organ daily for an hour during the seminary's lunch break, because he will provide accompaniment at Masses in the Olympic Village. He added that he spends another hour playing basketball to be fit for the strenuous service during the games.

Sister Dong Siuhong is "studying hard about religious knowledge, especially about the church in China."

In order to provide the best religious services for the foreign athletes and accompanying personnel, she said, she is learning about liturgical arrangement and church decoration.

During the Olympic events, she said, the Catholics and the 18 Protestant volunteers will stay at the Protestants' Yanjing Theological Seminary near the Olympic Village.

Volunteers all have to wear the same uniform, but volunteer nuns will wear their habits at Masses to "show Catholic identity," said Sister Siuhong, who speaks Korean.

"We will present to the visitors warm hospitality and a good image of Chinese Catholics," she said, expressing hope that visitors would gain a better image of the church in China than they might have had a few decades ago.

Li said he hopes to show the foreign athletes and visitors that the church in China is young and energetic. He noted that the Beijing Diocese is baptizing more and more young and educated people each year.

Sister Kou Suzhen, who studied in France, said she thinks being a volunteer fits in with the spirit of consecrated life.

"I will express my devotion to God in my service," she told UCA News. "As the Olympics takes off soon, I'm preparing myself to serve the foreign guests with a positive attitude, happiness and warmth."

## Chinese Catholics observe silence to mourn quake victims

CHENGDU, China (CNS) — Catholics joined other Chinese in observing three minutes of silence May 19 to pray for and mourn those killed by the earthquake that hit southwestern China a week earlier.

The Chinese government declared an unprecedented three-day period of national mourning May 19-21 for victims of the magnitude 7.9 quake.

Entertainment businesses were to be closed and the Beijing Olympics torch relay in Zhejiang and Shanghai was suspended until May 22.

After a Mass at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan, about 80 Catholics stood and observed the three minutes of silence at 2:28 p.m., the time at which the quake struck a week earlier.

The quake's epicenter was in Wenchuan, just northwest of Chengdu.

Around the country, air-raid sirens and the horns of cars, trains and ships were sounded in expressions of grief as the Chinese stood in silence.

Father Simon Li Zhigang, diocesan administrator, said about 100 people attended a memorial Mass for the dead that morning.

In Hong Kong, Cardinal Joseph Ze Ze-kiun led diocesan priests in observing the three-minute silence.

Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, a Catholic and the chief executive of Hong Kong led high-ranking local officials in the moments of silence, after which he made the sign of the cross.

Approximately 35,000 people died and more than 245,000 people were injured in the quake.





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by Pope Paul VI

MAY 30, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 30

| PAGES 14-15

## Perspectives

A silver anniversary worth  
remembering; pressing  
questions about life on earth

## Uncovering the past

Vatican completes  
restoration of  
mausoleum under  
St. Peter's

BY CAROL GLATZ  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has completed the restoration of the largest and most luxurious mausoleum in the vast necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica.

The Mausoleum of the Valerii displays some of the most ornate decoration among the 22 family mausoleums in the ancient underground cemetery.

"We had wanted to restore it for a long time, but we didn't have the money. Now we're extremely happy" the funding came through and the yearlong restoration has been completed, said Maria Cristina

See MAUSOLEUM, page 7

## Going down a dangerous road



CNS PHOTO BY PHILIMON BULAWAYO, REUTERS

Family members of evicted farmworkers cook breakfast on the side of the road outside Mvurwi village, Zimbabwe, May 1. Families have been evicted by ruling party militia after being suspected to have voted for the opposition Movement For Democratic Change in Zimbabwe's March 29 presidential and parliamentary elections. Scores have been killed and thousands displaced in postelection violence.

Church official: Rural  
Zimbabwians fear  
for their lives amid  
violence

BY BRONWEN DACHS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Zimbabwians in rural areas "fear for their lives," a church official said after a report warned that Zimbabwe is headed toward civil war.

Postelection attacks have been "most severe" in rural areas, and many Zimbabwians in these areas may be too afraid to vote for the opposition in the runoff presidential election June 27, said Alouis Chaumba, head of Zimbabwe's Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace.

However, many people in the country's towns and cities

See VIOLENCE, page 5

## The N.C. man and the saint



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gaetano Catanoso, an Italian parish priest canonized in October 2005, is pictured in this undated photograph. His cousin, Justin Catanoso, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, has recently written a book about his saintly relative and his own spiritual journey.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 10.

## Crusading for a better tomorrow

Youth group marks one-year anniversary

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CANDLER — May 20 marked the one-year anniversary of the formation of a youth group at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler.

Comprised of middle and high school students from the Asheville area, they call themselves the "Crusaders" and follow the motto, "Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ."

"Even though St. Joan of Arc had a very active faith formation ministry, there was no youth group per se," said Nancy Driscoll, parish youth minister.

Driscoll first began working with the youths at the parish as a middle school faith formation catechist. She

See YOUTHS, page 8

## Culture Watch

Archdiocese sues Facebook;  
pope to send text messages

| PAGES 10-11

## In Our Schools

Student-actors perform classic  
Shakespeare, Andersen tales

| PAGE 12

## Hospitality, not hostility

Churches help victims of  
xenophobic violence

| PAGE 16



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the St. Joan of Arc Youth Group in Candler, weed a garden for a parishioner as part of a Fall 2007 community service project.

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##



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FACES OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

Opera singer Amelia Farrugia, siblings Mitchell and Sophie Delezio, and Australian Football League player Jared Crouch have been chosen by World Youth Day 2008 organizers to be ambassadors for the July 15-20 event. Sophie Delezio, 8, escaped death twice. She survived a fire and also lived when struck by a car.

## Family of girl who escaped death among World Youth Day ambassadors

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — The Catholic family of an 8-year-old girl who narrowly escaped death twice was named among nine ambassadors for World Youth Day 2008.

Sophie Delezio, known to Australians as "Little Sophie," was thrown more than 55 yards when she was struck by a car two years ago.

She spent 12 days in intensive care after suffering a heart attack, a broken jaw and broken shoulder bone, bruising to her head, numerous rib fractures and a tear to her left lung.

In 2003 she lost both feet and suffered burns to 85 percent of her body after a car crashed into a Sydney child care center she was attending.

The Delezio family — Sophie's parents, Ron and Carolyn, along with Sophie and her brother, Mitchell — are among the local sport stars, singer, diplomat and fashion designer chosen to promote World Youth Day among Australians.

Sophie's parents said the opportunity to serve as World Youth Day ambassadors provides them the chance to give "back to the church for what it has given us."

"World Youth Day will show Australians that the pope seriously cares about the people in Australia and wants to be with his family here," they said in a statement released by World Youth Day organizers.

Sophie, who was baptized at the shrine of Blessed Mary MacKillop in Sydney, always went into surgery with a prayer card and a relic of Blessed MacKillop, the Australian founder of the

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Blessed MacKillop, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995, is one of 10 patrons of World Youth Day.

"When the medical side is out of your hands, the only other way we could help Sophie was in prayer and knowing that there was a possibility of Sophie going to God if it did not work out," Sophie's parents said.

"No one can endure the difficulties of dealing with their child's critical injuries without having faith," they added. "It would have been too hard without believing in God and Mary MacKillop."

The couple said they witnessed God's love when they saw the World Youth Day cross and icon arrive in Australia. When they saw their children touch the cross they felt "God's energy was passed on to the children and our whole family."

World Youth Day ambassadors are helping to promote World Youth Day in Sydney July 15-20.

The other Australian ambassadors are: Matthew Hayden, cricket player; Jared Crouch, football player; Mark Bresciano, World Cup soccer hero; Stephen Moore, Rugby World Cup star; Amelia Farrugia, opera singer; John Herron, former ambassador to the Vatican and Ireland; Jimmy Little, musician; and Carla Zampatti, fashion designer.

Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney described the ambassadors as "impressive Australian role models" who will help encourage "all Australians — young and old — to get involved in World Youth Day."

## Kennedy's colleagues in Congress praise his strong spirit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Capitol Hill colleagues praised the fighting spirit of longtime U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts after learning he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

On the Senate floor May 20, Kennedy's colleagues stopped deliberations to offer words of encouragement for the 76-year-old senator, who was hospitalized in Boston May 17 after he suffered a seizure at his Cape Cod home.

Three days later, Kennedy's physicians announced the seizure was caused by a malignant tumor in the upper left portion of his brain.

He was released from the hospital May 21. A course of treatment has not been announced.

Kennedy, a Catholic, was elected in 1962 to the seat once held by his brother, John F. Kennedy, who became president in 1960.

He is the third-longest serving

senator in U.S. history, after the late Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.,

Kennedy has worked with Catholic bishops and Catholic Charities officials on a variety of issues, such as immigration, the federal minimum wage and health coverage.

He also has been criticized by Catholic leaders for his support for legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.

Catholic colleagues in the Senate and House offered their support for the senator.

During a May 21 media briefing on Capitol Hill announcing religious leaders' support for a newly-reworked climate change bill, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, led other Christian and Jewish religious leaders in a moment of prayer for Kennedy.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host "Men's Spirituality" the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. The next sessions will be June 10, 24. For more information, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or call Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875.

CHARLOTTE — The *Compassionate Friends of Charlotte* meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The organization is a support group for parents who have lost a child, regardless of cause of death or age of the child. The group meets at 7 p.m. in Room 234. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Donna or Ralph Goodrich at (804) 882-4503 or e-mail [iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net](mailto:iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net).

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail [jrueckel@earthlink.com](mailto:jrueckel@earthlink.com).

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Saturday of each month at 5 p.m. Confession at 4 p.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, contact Father Mark Shuey at [mshuey2@nc.rr.com](mailto:mshuey2@nc.rr.com).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — In honor of the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will give a talk at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W., Sunday, June 8, 3 p.m. Following the talk, PGA Life Member and Immaculate Conception parishioner Ron Garcia will testify to how his asthma and allergies were miraculously cured by water from Lourdes. A question and answer session will follow, along with a reception. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Ron Garcia at (828) 696-8163.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession* for

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican document says vow of obedience shows dependence on God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A religious vow of obedience is a witness to the truth that obeying God's will sometimes involves reining in unbridled personal freedom, said a new Vatican document.

"With their very existence, consecrated persons present the possibility of a different way for the fulfillment of their own life, a way where the goal is God, his word the light and his will the guide," said the document from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The document, "The Service of Authority and Obedience," was released May 28 at the Vatican and was presented the same day to the heads of men's religious orders at the assembly of the Union of Superiors General.

In the past, the document said, religious superiors risked focusing so much of the order's mission that they could

overlook the needs and gifts of individual members; "today, the risk can come rather from excessive fear of hurting others' feelings" or by focusing so much on individual talents that the impact on the order as a whole is neglected.

Neither religious obedience nor exercising authority in a religious community is easy, which is why both must take place in an atmosphere of prayer, with members seeking the will of God and listening to one another, it said.

Those in authority must be instruments of God's love and mercy, the document said.

The superior must be a person of deep prayer who listens to and consults others, but is not afraid to take responsibility for making the final decision, it said.

"Persons in authority must act in such a way that the brothers or sisters can perceive that when they give a command they are doing so only to obey God," said the document.

or call (919) 779-7246.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, will take place at Natty Greene's Pub and Brewing Co., 345 S. Elm St. The next series will be held on Wednesday evenings, June 4, 11 and 18. Socializing begins at 6:45 p.m. Speaker begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, call Deb at (336) 286-3687 or send an e-mail to greensborotot@yahoo.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran at (828) 327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — June 22-27 is designated as *vacation Bible school week* at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The adult classes will be led by Rev. Ben Bushyhead on June 22 at 6:30 p.m., and June 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. The children's vacation Bible school will be held Monday through Friday

from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be a closing Mass for all participants, followed by a potluck dinner, June 27 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

MURPHY — *Scripture study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters* is being offered now through the first week in August at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The classes are held on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each session includes reflection on Scripture, commentary, daily questions and a brief synopsis. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

BRYSON CITY — An *adult faith formation* evening with Father Shawn O'Neal will take place at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St. after the 4 p.m. Mass, June 20. The topic will be "Ask and you shall receive: Answering your questions; why we believe what we believe and do what we do." Questions on beliefs, rituals, and other things can be sent to stjoseph@dnnet.net. Discussion will take place over a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share. For more information, call the church office at (828) 488-6766.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present "*Prayer and Discernment*" June 8, 3-5 p.m., as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, call (336) 723-1092 or send an e-mail to spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Receiving Eucharist kneeling may not be permanent change

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The four dozen people who received Communion from Pope Benedict XVI on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ received the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling.

Vatican officials said the gesture at the May 22 Mass outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran does not mark a permanent change in papal liturgies, but highlighted the solemnity of the feast and a connection to Mass practices in the past.

As the pope prepared to distribute Communion, two ushers placed a kneeler in front of the altar on the basilica steps. The chosen communicants — laypeople, nuns, seminarians, priests and boys and girls who had received their first Communion in their parishes in May — all knelt and received on the tongue.

Generally at papal Masses, those receiving Communion from the pope stand. The majority choose to receive on the tongue, but some reverently extend cradled hands to receive the Eucharist.

In a brief e-mail to Catholic News Service May 23, Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, said the decision "was a solution adopted for (the feast of) Corpus Domini," but as for the future, "we'll see."

Archbishop Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don, secretary of the

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, told CNS "there is no discussion" in the Vatican about insisting that those who receive Communion from the pope do so kneeling or that they receive it on the tongue rather than in their hands.

In addition, he said, "there are no new norms coming" that would change the Vatican's 1969 decision that local bishops could allow their faithful to receive the Eucharist in their hands while standing.

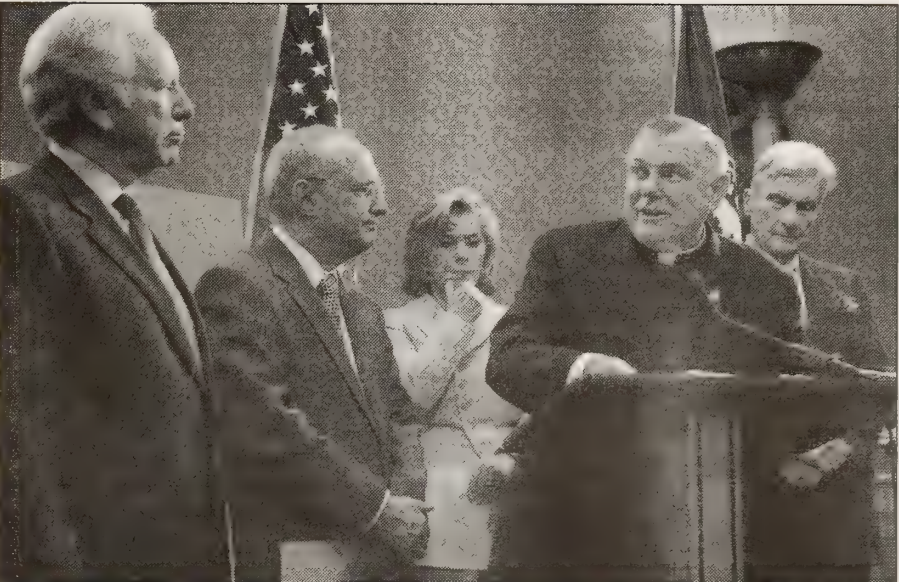
"But the gesture of the Holy Father" at the May 22 Mass "is to be appreciated. It brings out in a better way the fact that we adore the Lord whom we receive" in the Eucharist, Archbishop Ranjith said.

"It was a special occasion" because the feast focuses on Jesus truly present in the Eucharist, he said. "I hope this practice spreads."

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Benedict spoke about the importance of "kneeling before the Lord, adoration that begins at the Mass itself and accompanies the entire (Corpus Christi) procession" through the streets of Rome.

"To adore the body of Christ means to believe that there, in that piece of bread, there really is Christ who gives meaning to our lives," the pope said in his homily.

Gathering for change



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., looks toward Sen. Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn. (left), while speaking at a press briefing concerning a climate change bill, on Capitol Hill in Washington May 21. Religious leaders, including Rabbi David Saperstein (second from left), joined U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. (third from left) and John Warner, R-Va. (right) at the briefing. Bishop Wenski, chairman of the U.S. bishops Committee on International Justice and Peace, said he was not endorsing specific legislation, but welcomed the climate change bill's focus on the poor.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 1 (11 a.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Mary Church, Sylva

June 4 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of Confirmation  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

June 5 (11 a.m.)  
Mass with seminarians for diocese  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

June 7 (10 a.m.)  
Ordination Mass of Deacons Brad Jones and Tri Vinh Truong  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

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## Honoring Our Lady of Fatima

*Mass, dinner recognizes influence, vocations, work of foundation*

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Fatima's influence on vocations was recognized recently during a special Mass and dinner.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated a Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

Several priests of the Diocese of Charlotte concelebrated the Mass, with transitional deacons assisting and seminarians serving.

During the dinner afterward in the parish hall, Father Conrad Kimbrough, a retired priest of the diocese, was honored for his devotion to Our Lady and to fostering vocations.

The Mass and dinner — attended by guests from the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh and Richmond, Va. — were sponsored by the Te Deum Foundation, a North Carolina-based benevolent organization that provides spiritual and material needs for seminarians.

On May 13, 1917, three siblings claimed to have seen Mary near their home at Fatima, Portugal. The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

In his homily, concelebrant Father James Ebright spoke from first-hand experience that Our Lady guides seminarians along their paths to the priesthood.

For priests, she is "their special mother, the mother of the one, true priest, prophet and king they seek to follow," said Father Ebright, who is in residence at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Father John Putnam, diocesan judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church, spoke during the dinner about how his early trip to the site of Our Lady's apparitions. There, he said, he received confirmation that the priesthood was indeed his vocation.

As such, he praised the importance

of the Te Deum Foundation's Fatima pilgrimage for seminarians.

Father Richard DeClue, who is performing graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., spoke of how the foundation provided for some of his material needs, allowing him to stay focused on his studies.

Father Christopher Roux, the bishop's priest secretary, spoke about the foundation's plans to build a seminary in North Carolina. The dinner raised funds for the project.

There are currently no seminaries between Florida and Washington, D.C., he said.

"Unlike other sections of the country where parishes are closing or consolidating, there's a need here for our unique culture of an expanding Catholic population," said Father Roux.

At the end of the dinner, Bishop Jugis and Wilhelmina Silva-Mobley, foundation president, presented a special award to Father Kimbrough. Although retired from active ministry, Father Kimbrough continues to mentor young seminarians and bring new men into the priesthood.

"Father Kimbrough has and continues to serve Our Lord by bringing new shepherds to his flock," said Silva-Mobley.

In recognition of Father Kimbrough's years of service, the foundation endowed the Rev. Conrad L. Kimbrough Scholarship for Seminarians.

"The Te Deum Foundation's mission and seminary project are both praiseworthy endeavors in the service of the Lord and his church," said Bishop Jugis.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the Te Deum Foundation, call (336) 765-1815 or visit [www.tedeumfoundation.org](http://www.tedeumfoundation.org).

## Celebrating Communion



COURTESY PHOTO

Father James Hawker (right), pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, and Father Richard Hanson, a diocesan priest, are pictured May 17 with one of five classes of children who celebrated their first Communion at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill May 10, 17 and 18. Each child celebrating his or her first Communion has a role during the Mass, such as carrying banners or candles, reading the first reading or intercessions, bringing up offertory gifts and preparing the altar for the eucharistic prayer.

First Communion, along with baptism and confirmation, is one of the three sacraments of initiation.

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Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Te Deum Foundation president Wilhelmina Silva-Mobley present an honorary award to Father Conrad Kimbrough during a dinner at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 13.



# Rural Zimbabweans fear for lives amid violence

VIOLENCE, from page 1

"are motivated to vote again to ensure an end to the present system," he told Catholic News Service in a May 26 telephone interview from the capital, Harare.

"Many communities feel that voting will be an act of solidarity with their friends who have been killed or wounded in the violence, so that they did not die in vain," Chaumba said.

A report on postelection violence in Zimbabwe by the Solidarity Peace Trust, an ecumenical group of church organizations from Zimbabwe and

South Africa, said, "There needs to be a general recognition that Zimbabwe is sinking fast into the conditions of a civil war, propelled largely by the increasing reliance on violence by the ruling party to stay in power, and the rapidly shrinking spaces for any form of peaceful political intervention."

The report, released in Johannesburg, South Africa, May 21, contained about 50 eyewitness accounts of orchestrated beatings, torture and the destruction of homes and shops.

The results of the March 29 parliamentary and presidential elections are "a clear message that, despite the extremely harsh and repressive political environment in which elections have

been conducted in Zimbabwe, the people of the country found the 'resources of hope' required to say no to continued authoritarian rule," it said.

In early May, election officials announced that Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, took 47.9 percent of the vote while President Robert Mugabe, 84, who has led Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980, took 43.2 percent.

The official results of the parliamentary vote confirmed that the opposition held a majority of seats for the first time in 28 years.

The report said that the ruling party's violence "has demonstrated the hollowness of Mugabe's anti-colonial message, with the real targets of his party's onslaught being the impoverished and battered citizens of the country."

The party's conduct since the March elections "has encapsulated the degeneracy of the Mugabe legacy, and the security threat that this regime now poses to Zimbabweans and the region," it added.

The report noted that the violence "was carefully planned by a combination of army, police" and government intelligence operatives at an April meeting in the village of Nkayi, Zimbabwe.

In their late May newsletter, Zimbabwe's Jesuits said there has been "vicious, premeditated violence" on an

unprecedented scale in the country since the elections.

They urged opposition supporters who have been attacked by government agents to resist the temptation to retaliate.

"This would be civil war. It would also destroy the moral foundation of the struggle of the opposition for freedom and the restoration of human dignity in this country," they said.

In Harare, Anglican Bishop Sebastian Bakare said people attending services in Anglican churches are assaulted by police with increasing brutality. In a statement, he expressed shock and dismay at the "continuous police interference with Sunday services."

Police officers "beat, harass and arrest us, having declared our church premises no-go areas," his May 23 statement said.

Bishop Bakare replaced a pro-Mugabe bishop.

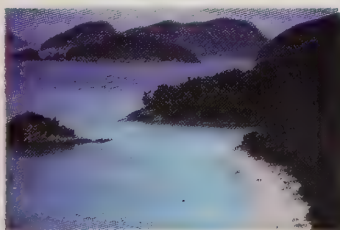
Jesuit Father Oscar Wermter said in the May newsletter that "a church congregation that is praying for peace is now deemed to be in support of the opposition — with a certain logic, one has to admit, since the ruling party is definitely engaged in war against the common people and is against peace."

"It is a great shame and very sad that members of the church supporting different parties may be fighting each other," Father Wermter said.

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CNS PHOTO BY HOWARD BURDITT, REUTERS

Supporters of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change from rural Zimbabwe show their broken limbs May 3 from an assault in the capital, Harare. Scores have been killed and thousands displaced in violence following the disputed March 29 election.



## IN MEMORIAM

## Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt: 1927-2008

*Priest remembered for mission work, leading others to Jesus*

BALTIMORE, Md. — Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt, a Jesuit for more than 60 years who once served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died May 20 at Colombiere Jesuit Residence in Baltimore, Md.

He was 81.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mark Church in Catonsville, Md., May 23. He was buried at the Jesuit cemetery in Woodstock, Md.

Father Hunt was born Feb. 14, 1927. He entered the Society of Jesus at St. Isaac Jogues Novitiate in Wernersville, Pa., Sept. 20, 1944. He was ordained at Woodstock Seminary June 23, 1957.

In 1963, Father Hunt was sent as a missionary to India, where he would spend 21 years in various ministries, notably at several schools and a hospital for patients with Hanson's disease (leprosy).

"He led with his heart," said Father Joseph Lacey, who had been friends with Father Hunt since 1959 and worked with him in India for many years.

Although Father Hunt never mastered the languages in India, he found a profound way to communicate.

"Every day, he would make the rounds and shake every leprosy patient's hand," said Father Lacey.

In 1984, Father Hunt returned to the United States and served as dean of students at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia for a year.

He then returned to parish ministry, serving as assistant pastor and parochial vicar at parishes in Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

He served as pastor of St. Benedict

the Moor Church and Good Shepherd Mission in Winston Salem from 1990 until 2004.

He then went on to serve as a pastoral care minister at a parish and medical center in Maryland between 2004 and 2008. He also took part in Radio Mass, which broadcast Sunday Masses from St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore for the homebound.

"He was a very, very vital part of this parish, even when he was in India," said Father Christopher Whatley, pastor of St. Mark Church, where Father Hunt continued to celebrate Sunday Mass until April 2008.

Father Hunt entered the Jesuits from St. Mark Church, according to Father Whatley, and the parishioners supported him and his work while he was in India.

"The parish was delighted when he came back here to serve the last few years and the schoolchildren especially cherished his sense of humor, his love for them and his strong desire to be with them," said Father Whatley.

"He saw his ministry as a way of telling everybody that Jesus loved them," said Deacon Joseph Knepper of St. Mark Church. "That's the way he lived his life."

Father Hunt is survived by two brothers, a sister and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made payable to "Jesuit Missions" be sent to Maryland Province, Jesuits Advancement, P.O. Box 64818, Baltimore, MD 21264.

## Josephite brother who was nationally renowned photographer dies at 78

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A funeral Mass for nationally renowned photographer Josephite Brother Earl Vincent Kent, 78, was celebrated May 28 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore.

Brother Earl died May 22 at St. Joseph Manor in Baltimore — a retirement and recuperation facility for the Josephites — following a long and debilitating illness, said Josephite Father John F. Byrne, a retired priest at the facility. Brother Earl was interred in New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

Orphaned as an infant in Baltimore, he was raised in St. Elizabeth Home and was educated at Dunbar Junior High School in the Maryland city and St. Joseph Industrial School for Boys in Clayton, Del., until 1946. He eventually began working at the Josephite facility even before he joined the religious order in 1954. He took his final vows in 1961.

Brother Earl served in a number of ministries in New York, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, Texas and Louisiana. Along the way he developed a passion for photography and honed his craft, Father Byrne said.

"He would later become a formidable photographer for the Josephites," he said. "He generated a large portfolio of photographs chronicling Josephite and parochial life and work throughout the country. Many such photographs have been published in the Josephite Harvest, the Josephite mission magazine."

In addition to teaching photography at St. Joseph Industrial School for Boys, Brother Earl also served as the official photographer at the Josephite Pastoral Center in St. Joseph Seminary in Washington.

"He was always taking pictures," said Josephite Brother Thomas Vincent, a longtime friend of Brother Earl, who is now working at the

Washington seminary.

Though much of his later photography can be seen at the Washington seminary, his work was appreciated by people nationwide who picked up a copy of the Josephite Harvest, said Josephite Father Frank M. Hull, editor of the national magazine.

"Brother Earl had been taking pictures most of his life as a Josephite brother," Father Hull said. "He could always be counted on to cover Josephite-related events."

The subjects in his photos stood out because they were never posed and he captured their true essence in the frame, Father Byrne said.

"When you saw the picture, you felt like you knew the guy," the priest said. "They were real people in his photos and when you look at them you can almost see into their souls, whether it was a photo at a funeral, a Josephite meeting, a bishop showing up, or of a pillar of the community."

The Baltimore-based Josephites — who primarily serve black communities — currently run parishes and schools in Washington, Baltimore, Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas and California, and have seminaries in both Washington and Nigeria.

Some of his favorite photographic subjects were youngsters in the different ministries, Brother Thomas said.

"Brother Earl really loved working with the youth," he said. "He may have been known for his photography, but he had also become a top-notch track coach when he was at St. Joseph Industrial School for Boys."

Very private, quiet and reserved, Brother Earl wasn't an easy man to get to know, but his photographs spoke volumes, Father Byrne said.

"He was one of those special kinds of artists I guess," he said. "He was not what you would call a media star."



**Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of June**

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Rev. Guy E. Morse	2000
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FROM THE COVER

“We had wanted to restore it for a long time ....”

# Vatican completes restoration of mausoleum under St. Peter's

MAUSOLEUM, from page 1

Stella, an official at the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office responsible for the basilica's upkeep.

The \$300,000 project was funded by the Rome-based Foundation for Music and Sacred Art, the Italian branch of Mercedes-Benz, and other sponsors.

Stella and other Vatican officials spoke at a May 27 press conference at the Fabbrica's headquarters near the basilica.

The Vatican necropolis includes the burial grounds where St. Peter's tomb has been venerated since early Christian times. The Valerii mausoleum was built sometime after 160 by Gaius Valerius Herma — a wealthy, highly educated Roman slave who had bought his freedom. He built the site for his family and his freed slaves and their descendants.

Like many other pagan tombs in the necropolis, the sarcophagi were later “recycled” by Christians who buried their loved ones and added inscriptions referring to Christ.

The cemetery had been used until the fourth century when the emperor Constantine had workmen fill in the open-air necropolis with dirt in order to lay the foundation for building a basilica above St. Peter's tomb.

The airless, lightless atmosphere actually had helped preserve much of the artwork and statuary.

Restorers for the Valerii mausoleum used hand-held lasers, tiny drills, scalpels,

sponges and plain water to remove mineral salts, other encrustations and dirt, and they injected special glues to reinforce crumbling plaster walls.

They pieced together broken plaster or marble fragments back onto statuary tucked into niches lining the mausoleum walls.

Stella said what makes this mausoleum stand out from the others is its “uniform use of stucco” for artistic rather than architectural reasons and the large number of life-size plaster figures that are almost three-dimensional bas-reliefs.

More than a dozen figures in the various niches and “lunettes” above the sarcophagi have been either partially or completely preserved. Inscriptions and elegant stucco decorations indicate each buried relative's name and interests when he or she was alive.

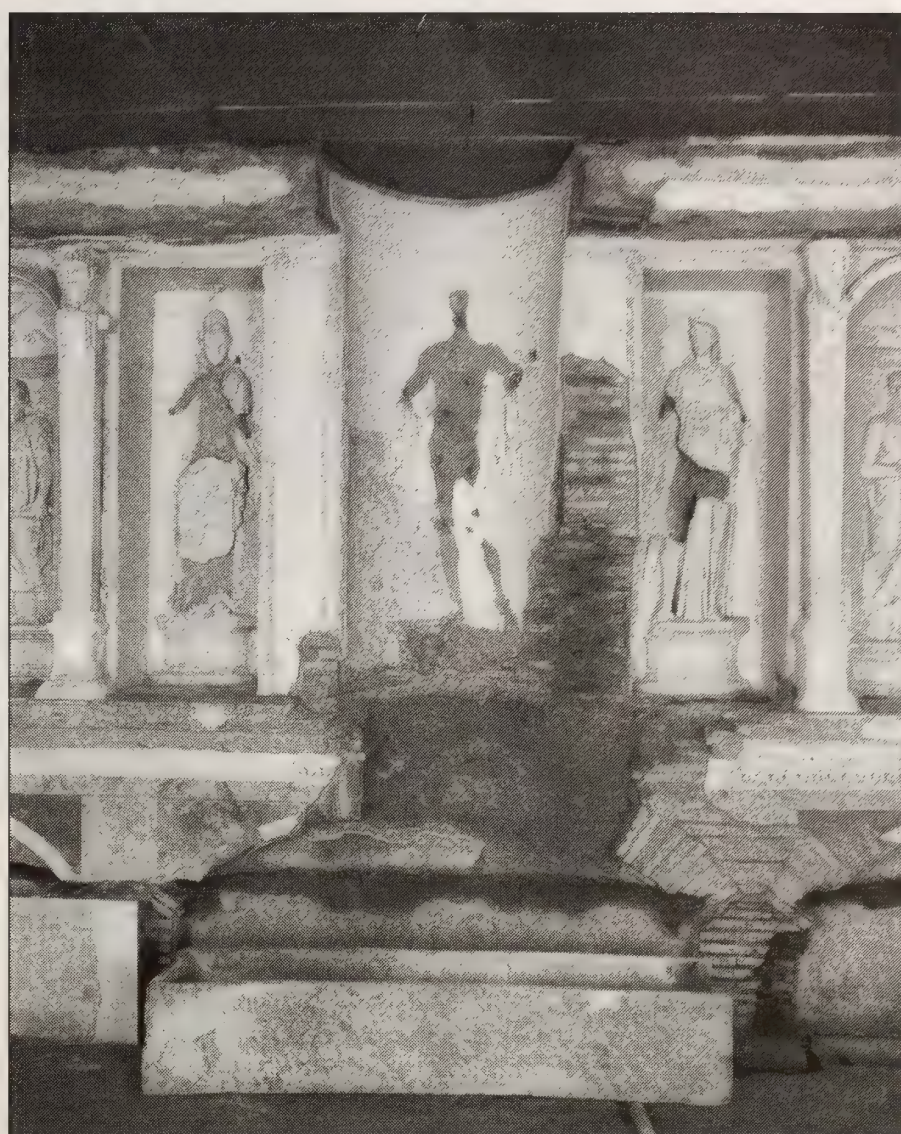
One elderly male figure holds a tablet in one hand while writing implements are depicted in the lunette above him.

Above one younger female figure are bas-reliefs of a mirror and a jewelry case and above an older female is a spindle, basket and ball of yarn.

Many Roman gods and goddesses decorate the walls. Hypnos, the god of sleep, has the wings of a bat and is surrounded by two similarly winged cherubs who are holding a gilded cornucopia filled with poppy seeds.

The second-century subterranean burial ground is two levels below the basilica floor, and St. Peter's tomb is directly under the basilica's main altar.

The cemetery was excavated for the first time in the 1930-40s, revealing a double row of mausoleums and niches decorated with paintings, stucco



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF FABBRICA DI SAN PIETRO

The Mausoleum of the Valerii family is seen in the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in January 2008. The Vatican has completed restoration of the mausoleum, located in the same necropolis where St. Peter was buried.

and mosaics, along with a section of simpler graves.

The Vatican has spent the past decade repairing and restoring the tombs, labyrinthine lanes and funerary artwork using state-of-the-art techniques, as well as setting up a complete conservation system that controls the climate of the necropolis.

Visitors interested in seeing the necropolis must make reservations in writing in advance either by stopping at the excavations office or by sending a letter. Vatican guides escort groups of 10-15 people through the site.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF FABBRICA DI SAN PIETRO

This is a detail from the Mausoleum of the Valerii family as seen in the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in January 2008. The Vatican has completed restoration of the mausoleum, located in the same necropolis where St. Peter was buried.



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# Youth group marks one-year anniversary

YOUTHS, from page 1

recalled the enthusiasm of the youths and their eagerness to become more involved at the parish.

"All it took was some organization," she said.

Over the past year, the youth group has become a visible part of ministry in the parish.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass on the third Sunday of each month is designated as the youth Mass. At that Mass, youth group members serve as readers, ushers and altar servers.

"It is so important that we encourage these young adults to be participants in the church," said Driscoll. "Serving their parish and community should be a vital part of their lives."

The youths have completed service projects such as yard work for parishioners and a fundraiser for a local food pantry, "Loving Food Resources."

Other involvement in the parish has included the performance of an "Epiphany play" and a presentation of the Passion on Palm Sunday.

"Our youths appreciate the recognition they receive from our parish," said Driscoll. "This past year

"This past year they have begun to recognize that they play a vital role in the church."

— Nancy Driscoll

they have begun to recognize that they play a vital role in the church."

One of the primary goals they set for the first year was organizing a trip to the 2007 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte.

At the congress, they took part in eucharistic adoration and the eucharistic procession, and attended the youth program track.

High school youth group members attended the annual Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest in April.

"Our youths are both the future and the 'now' of the church," said Driscoll.

"The youth group was formed to enhance the parish life at St. Joan of Arc," said Mike Driscoll, adult volunteer and Nancy's husband.

"And with the continued support of all concerned, it will continue to thrive," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).

# Developing tomorrow's Catholic leaders



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Parishioner Bernie Koesters gives money to youth group member Kegan Daly during the youth group's "Cakes for Kids" bake sale at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill May 11.

## Youth group shares Christian values with many

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

MARS HILL — The support and encouragement of the youths at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill have resulted in an increased spirit of giving from the small parish.

Maxine Pendleton, parish youth ministry director, engages the youths in an ongoing outreach to the communities in western North Carolina and beyond.

The first Saturday of each month, the youth group joins with a Baptist church to help feed the homeless and needy in downtown Asheville. The youths have developed friendships with many of the people they serve.

"Ms. Maebell is in her 80s and she looks after everyone," said Kegan Daly about one of the regulars at the Saturday food ministry.

"I'm dropping off an invitation to my (high school) graduation to her," said Daly.

Three recent Saturdays were spent on an extensive yard cleanup for a neighbor of a member of the parish music ministry.

The group also spent a Sunday in May running "Cakes for Kids," a bake sale fundraiser that raised \$250 for Arts for Life, an organization that teaches visual arts, music and creative writing to disabled children.

The parish youth ministry began

eight years ago under Pendleton's guidance. Changes are in store as some of the founding members, including Daly, move on to college this year, but the ministry remains strong with newer members growing into their roles as servants for those in need.

While focusing on local outreach most of the time, youth group members — after months of fundraising and support from parishioners — achieved their dream of going to Mexico in 2006 to help build a home in an impoverished community.

In addition to helping the less fortunate, the youths felt they received blessings from the experience.

"The poverty is pervasive," said Colleen Daly, one of the members who went on the trip and remains an active participant in the group.

"The trip helped us develop our own community," she said.

"It ties in with our faith," said Kegan Daly. "These are our brothers and sisters and we brought back those ties."

As some of the youth group members head off to college, they intend to take with them the lessons they have learned.

And through working with the youths, Pendleton said she too has learned more about tolerance and acceptance of others.

"The bottom line is the unconditional love God gives to us that we give to others around us," she said.



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## Celebrating Catholic Scouts



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar of Saint Therese of Lisieux Church in Mooresville, and Kevin Scruggs (right), Scoutmaster, are pictured with Boy Scouts from Troop 171 at the church May 4. The Scouts received their Catholic religious emblem awards — the high school-age Scouts received Pope Pius XII awards and the middle school-age Scouts received Ad Altare Dei awards.

Pictured are: (top row) Tommy Arland, Bobby Arland, Ryan Darge, Zack Sauser; (bottom row) Chris Arland, Father Kappes, Jaehyeong Lee, Joshua Babich and Scruggs.

Not pictured: Deacon John Sims, religious instruction advisor and permanent deacon at St. Therese Church.

## Charlotte Catholic senior organizes event for ALS



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Mike Rucker, former defensive end for the Carolina Panthers, signs an autograph for Ally Petrilli, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School. Rucker talked to students about ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease, during a luncheon at Charlotte Catholic May 27.

## Lunch with football player raises money, awareness

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When Charlotte Catholic High School senior Ally Petrilli found out her dad was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) she decided to take a proactive approach to dealing with his illness.

"When my dad was diagnosed two years ago, I knew I wanted to do something to raise money and raise awareness," said Petrilli.

With the help of her friends and the encouragement of faculty and staff at Charlotte Catholic, she organized several events to help support the cause.

Fundraisers included a school dance and dress-down day — a day when students paid a dollar to wear something other than the school uniform.

Then a family friend suggested they solicit the help of a professional — a professional football player, that is.

Tom Brydon knew Mike Rucker, former defensive end for the Carolina Panthers, from his work on the board of the PinStripes Fund, which supports initiatives of the Carolinas Neuromuscular/ALS-MDA Center.

He knew ALS was a cause that was close to Rucker's heart. Rucker's grandfather was diagnosed with ALS when he was 9 years old.

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord resulting in muscle weakness and atrophy, according to the ALS Association Web site.

Petrilli and Charlotte Catholic campus minister Mary Jane Dawson came up with the idea of hosting a lunch with Rucker at the school.

Any student who supported the cause through the purchase of an ALS wristband could attend the event.

"It's always good to see the youth find a cause," said Rucker, who spoke at the event on May 27.

He recalled how the situation with his grandfather taught him what it meant to be a family.

"As a young kid it showed me the strength it took and the dedication," he said.

The Petrilli family is a testament to that strength.

"This whole situation — as bad as it is — helps you realize the importance of your faith, family and friends," said Ally's mother, Sherri Petrilli.

"You can't tackle something this huge without that support," she said.

This year, students at Charlotte Catholic have raised \$6,500 for the ALS Association's Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter in North Carolina.

"It's been great to see my family, friends and school community come together to support such a worthy cause — to support my dad," said Petrilli.

During the last six years of his career, Rucker helped raise a quarter of a million dollars for ALS through his fundraiser "SACK ALS."

"I felt like it was time to do my part," he said.

Through the program, supporters pledged to contribute a set amount of money per sack each season. The more sacks he collected, the more money he raised.

Now that he is retired, Rucker said he will have to come up with a new way to raise money for ALS.

In the meantime he said, "I enjoy talking to the youth and raising awareness."

He said he likes to see the creative ways young people, like Petrilli, are able to raise funds.

"It starts in the heart," he said. "And through small projects."



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## The North Carolinian and his cousin, the saint

*Two families, an ocean apart, reunited by St. Gaetano*

BY NADIA MARIE SMITH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PHILADELPHIA — Not many people can say they have a cousin for a saint. But Justin Catanoso, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, can.

Catanoso wrote about it in his first book, "My Cousin the Saint: A Search for Faith, Family and Miracles," published this May.

The book brings to life one of the church's newest canonized saints, St. Gaetano Catanoso, an Italian parish priest who served in a rural region with extreme poverty and a high rate of illiteracy and was a breeding ground for crime.

Canonized in October 2005, the Italian diocesan priest was one of five men in the first group of saints proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. He lived from 1879-1963.

Known for a spirit of charity, humility and sacrifice, St. Gaetano was dedicated to the holy face of Christ. He revived Marian and eucharistic devotions in his local parish and founded an organization to help subsidize education for poor seminarians.

He also opened an evening school for children in his parish who had to work at home or on the farm during the day.

His devotion to the Holy Face led him to found the Daughters of St. Veronica, Missionaries of the Holy Face, in 1934. St. Veronica is the woman who approached Jesus as he carried his cross and gave him her veil so he could wipe his face.

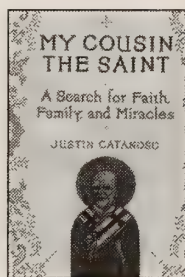
"Padre Gaetano came to believe he could do no less than to love with the same kind of intensity that Jesus loved. How else could he soften so many hardened souls?" Catanoso writes in his book.

"Like St. Veronica, herself, Padre Gaetano would fall in step with the many, many poor hobbling all around him. He would wipe their faces of tears and blood. He would love them blindly, radically, unconditionally."

In his book, Catanoso uncovers the paths of his sainted cousin and that of his grandfather, Carmelo. The only Catanoso family member to emigrate to the United States, Carmelo established the American branch of the family in this country.

The 2005 canonization of St. Gaetano spurred a family reunion and set author Catanoso on a personal journey of faith. Until then, he had been a self-described lapsed Catholic, more of a cultural Catholic than anything else.

"I remember sitting there, in the middle of St. Peter's Square, at this most extraordinary ceremony on this picture-perfect day with 100,000 people in the square, thinking, 'The faith is so palpable in the square and I am a spectator to it.



That's not good enough. I am going to give this a try," Catanoso recalled.

At that moment, he said, he promised himself he would start going to church and understanding the Mass, which was so central to St. Gaetano's life.

As he began that spiritual journey, he was approached to write a book about his cousin. So Catanoso, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and journalism instructor at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, set off in "search of faith, family and miracles."

The resulting book has been hailed as "a glorious book," by Jesuit Father James Martin, the author of "My Life With the Saints" and acting publisher of America magazine.

"Part spiritual journey, part detective story, part travelogue, Justin Catanoso's engrossing new memoir shows how discovering God always leads to discovering yourself," Father Martin wrote in his review of the book.

Catanoso spoke about his cousin and his family May 29 at St. Cornelius Church in Chadds Ford, Pa. Msgr. Gregory Parlante, the pastor, attended St. Gaetano's canonization and his family is related to the Catanosos through marriage.

### WANT TO LISTEN?

Justin Catanoso talks about his book and St. Gaetano Catanoso on this week's docPod, the podcast of the Diocese of Charlotte. To listen, go to [www.charlottediocese.org/podcasts.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/podcasts.html).

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## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 8, 2008

June 8, Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Hosea 6:3-6  
Psalm 50:1, 8, 12-13, 14-15
- 2) Romans 4:18-25  
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

## Jesus taps into people where they are

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Tejano music is streaming out of the sound system, there is a margarita in my hand, it is Cinco de Mayo and I am mingling with about 100 young adults in a local bar.

The clincher is that I am not cruising for a date. I'm at a church event. The event is called "Theology Oon Tap."

All around the country, "Theology Oon Tap" gathers young adults in a relaxed setting to bring the message of Jesus' love to those who may not have darkened the door of a church since their confirmation.

There is some controversy about this. After all, this is a church-sponsored event at a bar! This Sunday's Gospel offers us a glimpse into the theology behind the "Tap."

Some of Jesus' followers were asked, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus, overhearing the question, replied: "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. .... I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Jesus is the master of meeting people where they are. He does not expect them to change before he accepts them. Quite the contrary, he makes the first move and offers healing.

This night in the bar, Jesus moves, too. The speaker is talking about the Resurrection and poses the question: "What difference does it make for me?"

As I gaze around the room, I see the faces of young Catholics eager to learn more and believe more.

They may not be perfect, but at least they are seeking. They seek the Resurrection; they seek people who are like them in age and faith background; they seek fulfillment for their life; they seek peace; and they seek belonging.

All of what they seek is found in the person of Jesus and in his body that is gathered — tonight in a bar here, every Sunday at Mass. Let's pray that the former leads to the latter!

### Questions:

Where do you think Jesus would go to minister to people if he had come now instead of 2,000 years ago? Is anyone bringing the Gospel to those places in your town?

What can we do to bring the light of the Gospel to the dark places in our world?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Matthew 9:11)

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1-7

**Sunday (Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32, Romans 3:21-25, 28, Matthew 7:21-27; **Monday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)**, 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)**, 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday**, 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday (St. Boniface)**, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday (St. Norbert)**, 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday**, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:38-44.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 8-14

**Sunday (Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Hosea 6:3-6, Romans 4:18-25, Matthew 9:9-13; **Monday (St. Ephrem)**, 1 Kings 17:1-6, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday**, 1 Kings 17:7-16, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday (St. Barnabas)**, Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, 1 Kings 18:41-46, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday (St. Anthony of Padua)**, 1 Kings 19:9, 11-16, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday**, 1 Kings 19:19-21, Matthew 5:33-37.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 15-21

**Sunday (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Exodus 19:2-6, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:36-10:8; **Monday**, 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday**, 1 Kings 21:17-29, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday**, 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (St. Romuald)**, Sirach 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday**, 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga)**, 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Matthew 6:24-34.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



# Cellular Catholicism



CNS ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY THOMPSON AND PAUL HARING

This photo illustration shows Pope Benedict XVI and a text message on a GSM cell phone. The pope will send daily text messages directly to pilgrims with GSM cell phones during World Youth Day July 15-20 in Sydney, Australia.

## Pope to send daily text messages during World Youth Day

BY DAN McALOON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will send daily text messages directly to pilgrims during World Youth Day July 15-20 in Sydney, said youth day organizers.

The pope's text messages of hope and inspiration will be carried by World Youth Day's official communications partner, Telstra, said a World Youth Day statement May 7.

The Vatican has not commented.

"We wanted to make WYD08 a unique experience by using new ways to connect with today's tech-savvy youth," said Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, World Youth Day coordinator.

The Telstra partnership, he said, means that Sydney "will be the most

innovative World Youth Day to date."

A Telstra spokesperson said the GSM cell-phone networks running for World Youth Day "will mean many cell phones used by pilgrims from the United States will also work here."

Pilgrims also can purchase a prepaid SIM card for their cell phones when they arrive in Australia. However, a Telstra spokesman noted that CDMA phones do not accept their SIM cards.

In addition to its official Web site — [www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en](http://www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en) — World Youth Day also will offer an online social networking site [www.xt3.com](http://www.xt3.com).

The site's social network will be launched in coming weeks, although pilgrims already may visit the site and ask to be notified via e-mail when registration opens.

# Archdiocese of Indianapolis sues Facebook over phony Web page

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is suing the online social networking site Facebook to learn the identity of the person who developed a phony Facebook page that targeted a high school administrator by using his name without his permission.

The suit was filed May 9 on behalf of Tim Puntarelli, dean of students at the archdiocesan-run Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

Archdiocesan spokesman Greg Otolski told Catholic News Service May 15 that the suit was filed after Facebook failed to turn over information about who established the Web page and sent inappropriate messages to students.

Facebook, based in Palo Alto, Calif., allows users to communicate with friends, fellow students, co-workers and others. Users can post photos and messages on individual Web pages.

The phony Web page's anonymous developers must be identified in order for the archdiocese to determine if additional legal action is required to protect and restore Puntarelli's reputation, Otolski said.

"One of the reasons we want to see who did it is to decide how we would proceed," Otolski said.

Archdiocesan officials want to know "if it's kids who thought it was a practical joke and didn't realize the seriousness of it, or if it was someone who had it out for him to ruin his reputation and ruin his career," he said.

The Web page was discovered April 18 and was taken down within two days after the school's technology director contacted Facebook, according to the complaint filed in Marion County Superior Court.

The suit alleges that the user, identified only through an e-mail address as [mclovenjesus@yahoo.com](mailto:mclovenjesus@yahoo.com), created a profile for Puntarelli and defamed him through photos and inappropriate messages sent to Roncalli High School students.

The postings included invitations to 31 students to become Puntarelli's "Facebook Friends" and a message suggesting that Puntarelli may take disciplinary action and/or administer a drug test to a student, the suit said.

The complaint also alleges that the user transmitted false and misleading messages about the archdiocese.

"We're not looking to infringe upon anybody's First Amendment rights in any kind of way," Otolski said. "But I don't think in this case he's a public figure. He's not somebody who would be well known to a large group of people."

The court issued a temporary restraining order May 9 preventing Facebook from destroying information regarding the identity of the Web page's creator.

"We're still talking with Facebook's lawyers and we're still hoping that Facebook will give us the info we need to identify the creator of the page," Otolski told CNS.

Facebook declined comment on the case.

## Jesuit magazine criticizes 'Big Brother' TV show for its disservices

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The "Big Brother" television series risks creating a new generation of gladiators when people act not according to ethical standards but according to what is necessary to survive, said an influential Jesuit journal.

The influence the reality television show has on today's culture and future generations means alternative ways must be found that teach young people "more dignified" role models, it said.

In a May 17 article released to journalists May 15, *La Civiltà Cattolica* gave a lengthy description of the "Big Brother" series that started in the Netherlands in 1999 and soon spread to other parts of the world.

The Rome-based biweekly journal is reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State before publication.

In the United States, the 10th season of "Big Brother" will air in July; the eighth season wrapped up in Italy this spring.

The article, written by Jesuit Father Francesco Occhetta, said the "Big Brother" formula is reminiscent of ancient pagan sacrifices, where the god being worshipped is the brother's all-seeing eye, the altar is the stage, and participants are regularly "sacrificed" in

these new temples.

Whereas the world of Big Brother in George Orwell's book, "1984," sought to create a society of inclusion in which everyone fit in and did not get out of line, the reality series is based on "exclusion: pinpointing the people who don't fit the role assigned to them" and tossing them out "like a bouncer" weeding out the "undesirables."

A third definition of "big brother," the article said, must be promoted — that of being an older sibling to someone, being responsible for others' needs and willing to sacrifice oneself for the other.

It said the severity of the difficulties, dangers and exploitation the participants experience is demonstrated by the fact that participants are offered several sessions with professional therapists after their stint on the show is over.

Parents, church groups and teachers must work together to "unmask the underlying dynamics" at work on the show and teach youths that reality television is a moneymaker, not something serious upon which to model their lives.

"Otherwise the risk is to train new 'gladiators'" to fight it out in the public arena with the aim of eliminating one another, it said.

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## Aspiring actors



COURTESY PHOTO

Third-grader Leo Pichardo (left) and sixth-grader Chiefo Nwachukwu, students at St. Michael School in Gastonia, rehearse a scene from "Macbeth" with an actor from the Hampstead Players Stage Company at the school May 20. The students — who volunteered — and actor portrayed the three witches in the William Shakespeare play, which was performed for students, faculty and guests and sponsored by the school's Parent Teacher Organization. "Macbeth" is a well-known Shakespearean tragedy that tells of the dangers of the lust for power and the betrayal of friends. The Hampstead Players Stage Company is a nonprofit group that tours to educate youths by bringing classic literature to life through live theater.

## Something to 'Honk' about



COURTESY PHOTO

The student cast of "Honk! Jr." is pictured at St. Pius X School in Greensboro in this March photo.

## Student production a success, says director

GREENSBORO — The St. Pius X Players, middle-school students at St. Pius X School in Greensboro, presented "Honk! Jr." to rave reviews and sellout crowds as part of the school's fifth annual spring production March 13-15.

"Honk!" is an award-winning musical retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen story "The Ugly Duckling," mixed with a theme of pro-tolerance. "Honk! Jr." was a revised version tailored for middle school-age students.

"It is a great story for all ages, teaching us how to accept people the way they are and that being different can be a good thing," said Tracy Shaw, middle school religion and drama teacher, who directed the production. "I chose this

musical, because of the great songs and the underlying message that it gave: 'We are all unique and special.'"

This year's production was the largest yet, according to Shaw. The sixth-through-eighth-grade performers rehearsed for six weeks, four days a week, to prepare for the show in the school's auditorium. Art teacher Sharon Nosal designed the set and resource assistant Cindy Basel designed the costumes.

Shaw said the show was a huge success.

"I was blown away by the performances of my actors. I am blessed with a very talented group of students who are willing to take risks for the sake of art," she said.

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The Diocese of Charlotte Office of Hispanic Ministry is accepting applications for a full-time coordinator for Hispanic Ministry in several vicariates. Person is responsible for coordinating ministry with the Spanish-speaking communities within a vicariate in collaboration with the local parishes. Applicants must be practicing Catholics, bilingual in English and Spanish languages, have a good understanding of Hispanic cultures, be able and willing to work in a team setting and able to travel and work flexible schedules, especially weekends. Pastoral experience and education in Hispanic Ministry would be a plus.

Please send resume with a cover letter along with contact information for 3 references by June 7th to Director for Hispanic Ministry, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or email: AMInkrott@charlottediocese.org.

### PART-TIME MUSIC POSITIONS, Charlotte, NC

Each candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, familiar with the Catholic Liturgy and be able to provide references. The music program consists of primarily traditional hymns and chant. All candidates will be subject to background check and will be required to participate in "Protecting God's Children" program. Payment, which is per Mass, commensurate with experience and ability.

**Cantor:** Able to read music, prepare individually and take direction; able to work a cappella (solo) & with pitch pipe, proficient soloist, available to participate in SATB choir; familiar with Latin. Also helpful: familiar with Spanish.

**Organist:** Experienced accompanist, able to read music and prepare individually, able to take direction. Also helpful: piano skills, familiarity with Latin and Spanish.

**Contact:** Terese Rowe @ 704-599-5725 (home phone)

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Ashley Tisdale

**Western Carolina U.**  
Michael Nichols

**Wisconsin, U. of**  
Peter O'Day

**Wofford University**  
Joseph Ready

**WV State U.**  
Ashley Tisdale

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**Wisconsin, U. of**  
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**Wofford University**  
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**WV State U.**  
Ashley Tisdale

**Western Carolina U.**  
Michael Nichols

**Duke University**  
Brian Harper Rice

**East Carolina University**  
Michael Lloyd Alphonso  
Sean Wesley Brannan  
Rebecca Ann Edmonds  
David Adams Enos  
Mary Kathryn Lee  
Christopher James Lyons  
Margaret Kathleen O'Hare  
William Jeffrey Russell

**Elon University**  
Milena Isabel Alvarez  
Mallory Paige Hinzman

**Gardner-Webb University**  
Andrew Stanley Robinson

**Gaston College**  
Brittany Dawn Amerson

**Green Mountain College**  
Joseph John Grzyb

**Guilford College**  
Sarah Marie McKaughn  
Tara Leann Turman

**Guilford Tech. Com. Col.**  
Daniel Thomas Causey  
Christina Lynn Oliveira  
Valentina Pavone  
Garic Roane Williams

**High Point University**  
Drew Jonathan Embler  
Adam Hoffman  
Christopher Lawrence Moore

**James Madison University**  
Melissa Anne Horne

**Kansas, Univ. of**  
Shelby Leigh Haller

**Kentucky, Univ. of**  
Evin Elizabeth Torney

**Lenoir-Rhyne College**  
Benjamin Thacker Barrow  
Megan Elizabeth Maddox

**Lynchburg College**  
Katherine Rebecca Latta  
Mary Julian Donahue  
Emma Kristine Dull

**Mars Hill College**  
Kristina Dawn Hite

**Meredith College**  
Anne Elizabeth Fischer

**NC State University**  
Breanne Elizabeth Long  
Anna Maria Vargas  
Ifanyi Sharon Watson

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Laura Gene Luepelt

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**Sanford University**  
Jordan Marie Moore

**School of Art Inst./Chicago**  
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**UNC - Chapel Hill**  
Joshua Paul Chen  
Heather Lynn Hofmann  
Matthew Joseph O'Neill  
William Cooper Scott

**UNC - Charlotte**  
Erik Stephen Anderson

**UNC - Greensboro**  
Michael English Graban  
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Cassandra Marie Proudhomme  
Abigail Andra Rajkumar  
Dominique Hillard Robbins  
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**UNC - Pembroke**  
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**UNC - Wilmington**  
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**US Military Acad., West Point**  
John Royce Valitutto  
Samuel Devos Wharton

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Sarah Boyes Thomas

**Virginia Tech**  
Eric Scott Dischinger  
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Grace Hall  
Benjamin Minkyo Kirby  
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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## There are more pressing questions about life on earth

*Coexistence of science and religion must be considered*

You know what's coming when you see news stories with the words "Vatican" and "aliens" in the same sentence. It's raw material for Leno and Letterman, another opportunity to make Catholics appear silly.

And so it was with a recent interview with the Vatican astronomer whose main premise is this: It is difficult to exclude the possibility that other intelligent life exists in the universe.

That carefully nuanced statement then appeared in secular headlines as "Vatican OKs alien life," "Vatican says OK to believe in aliens" and "Vatican says little green men are part of creation."

"In my opinion this possibility exists," Jesuit Father Jose Funes, the director of the Vatican Observatory, told L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper. "This is not in contrast with the faith because we cannot place limits on the creative freedom of God."

God created multiple forms of life on earth, and there may be diverse forms throughout the universe.

The Bible "is not a science book," and looking for scientific facts on the universe and its origin doesn't cast doubt on God's role in its creation, he said.

Father Funes said the big-bang theory is the most "reasonable" explanation of the creation of the universe. The theory says the universe began billions of years ago in the explosion of a single, superdense point that contained all matter.

Astronomers believe the universe is made up of 100 billion galaxies, each consisting of 100 billion stars, he said.

So think about it: Is it presumptuous to hold that intelligence can exist only on Earth, one planet among billions? Is it proper to say that we are the best that God can do?

As intriguing as these considerations

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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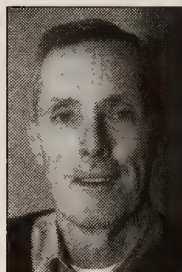
To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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**Extra!  
Extra!**

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



may be, there are more important and pressing questions about life on earth and the relationship of religion and science.

The U.S. bishops will consider at their June 13-15 meeting a brief policy statement on embryonic stem-cell research.

"The issue of stem-cell research does not force us to choose between science and ethics, much less between science and religion," the draft document says. "It presents a choice as to how our society will pursue scientific and medical progress."

It would be good if this moral issue would attract as much attention in a serious vein as does extraterrestrial life.

The policy statement addresses three arguments of proponents, the most chilling of which says "that which is destroyed is not a human life, or at least not a human being with fundamental human rights."

If not inherent upon creation, then when are such rights conferred and by whom? Can it be argued that what can be granted can also be revoked?

These are serious questions.

If it is reasonable to believe that the universe began with the explosion of a single point that contained all matter, is it any less reasonable to believe that a human being — with the full complement of human genes — began as an embryo?

Has a human embryo ever been known to become anything other than a human being?

The church too often is cast as anti-science. It is not.

"Catholic foundations and medical centers have been and will continue to be among the leading supports of ethically responsibly advances in the medical use of adult stem cells," says the bishops' draft document on embryonic stem-cell research.

While musings about alien life may open the mind to ponder deeper questions, the questions around embryonic stem cells are more profound and more demanding of serious attention.

It is upon them that the proper coexistence of science and religion will balance.

## A silver anniversary worth remembering

*U.S. bishops challenged faithful to put Gospel, church teaching first*

Twenty-five years ago the U.S. Catholic bishops were at their prophetic best. In the midst of the Cold War and a fast-moving arms race, and with nuclear war — mutually assured destruction — threatening the world, they courageously challenged the widely held and dangerous assumption that war is inevitable — even nuclear war!

In May of 1983, the bishops released their landmark pastoral letter "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." Immediately it became a lightning rod.

The bishops were highly criticized as being naive churchmen who were playing in a game they neither understood nor belonged in.

But the bishops did exactly what faithful bishops should always be doing: explaining the principles of peace contained in the Gospel and Catholic social teaching and providing authoritative moral applications based on those principles to the grave issues of contemporary war and war preparation.

The bishops insisted that the faithful have an obligation to take their applied teachings most seriously.

They wrote: "The moral judgments that we make in specific cases, while not binding in conscience, are to be given serious attention and consideration by Catholics as they determine whether their moral judgments are consistent with the Gospel."

However, now as then, it appears that most U.S. Catholics continue to cling far tighter to an unhealthy sense of nationalism — "my country right or wrong" — than to a way of life that strives to make moral judgments that are consistent with the Gospel.

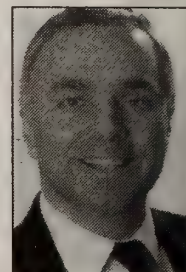
But 25 years ago the U.S. bishops strongly challenged us to put the Gospel and Catholic social teaching first!

They condemned the arms race as a danger to peace and a theft of money and goods needed by the poor. Instead, they called for a just distribution of the world's resources.

Condemning nuclear weapons, the bishops wrote that nuclear deterrence cannot be considered an adequate long-term basis for peace. However, 25 long dangerous years have passed, and

### Making a Difference

TONY  
MAGLIANO  
CNS COLUMNIST



nuclear deterrence remains a permanent part of U.S. warfare strategy.

Quoting Pope John Paul II, the bishops declared: "Today, the scale and the horror of modern warfare — whether nuclear or not — makes it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences."

One of the five bishops charged with drafting "The Challenge of Peace," retired Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit, told me that the just-war theory is not workable.

Hesaiditsprinciplesofdiscrimination (non-combatant immunity) and proportionality (going to war cannot cause more harm than good) cannot be met considering the massive destruction caused by modern warfare.

Bishop Gumbleton said the reason most Christians won't reject war is because they follow the direction of culture more than the direction of the Gospel. He said, "Jesus taught us how to die, not how to kill." A disciple "doesn't die with a weapon in his or her hand."

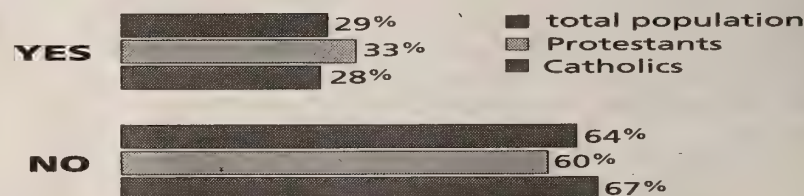
It would be a great service to the Catholic Church and the world if the present U.S. bishops would seriously re-examine and actively promote the deep insights and prophetic challenges offered by their predecessors in "The Challenge of Peace."

It would also be very helpful if priests and deacons would periodically weave the peace pastoral's teachings into their homilies.

A silver anniversary deserves to be celebrated! Let's dust off "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response" and strive to live out the wisdom and hope it offers our war-plagued world!

### Iraq: Five Years Later

Do you think the result of the war with Iraq was worth the loss of American life and other costs?



Conducted among a random sample of 844 U.S. adults interviewed March 15-17, 2008. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points.

Source: CBS News

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# The joys and pains of retiring

*Retirement a time to recall from where God has led us, and blessings along way*

The hors d'oeuvres, wine and flow of compliments seemed to be endless. One would have thought the person retiring was the messiah who saved the organization he served.

"You will always have your desk; you are always welcomed!" the retiree was promised.

Within months, the desk was occupied by another, and the impression was given that it would be better not to come into the office to allow the new director to find his own way. Being in the loop, telephone calls and travel all ceased!

A somebody had now become a nobody.

This story is lived by millions who retire each year only to face a three-tiered bitter pill: the unwelcome realization that aging can suddenly cut down a regular way of living; achievements stay in the past; daily camaraderie with co-workers becomes a thing of the past too. How do those retiring face this bitter pill?

As much as we tout the golden age of retirement, it is a reminder of twilight years and the death of much we have come to love.

This is shocking and must be faced squarely; otherwise, it can lead to depression.

The shock is realizing that life goes by quickly, that nothing lasts forever. If peace of mind is to exist, honestly accepting these realities must happen.

After the shock subsides, anger and resentment often set in, making a retiree feel that all the sweat and effort exerted were unappreciated. As one person bitterly told me, "I feel like an old rag that has been used up and is then tossed."

Once a retiree goes through this kind of purgatory, he or she needs to bolster the hope that retirement can in fact be enjoyable.

In Washington we have the saying, "There is life beyond the Beltway!" Retirement is a time for finding that other

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



life and realizing that it is often better than the one we left.

I can personally vouch that many people who are officially retired don't actually retire! They move into other jobs, and in many cases they have a much saner rhythm of life.

In retirement, the wisdom of the Bible on aging is ever so important to remember.

Job tells us: "With old age is wisdom, and with length of days understanding" (12:12).

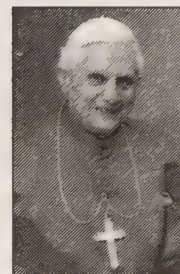
For those with children, the Book of Proverbs reminds us not to forget our blessings: "Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their parentage" (17:6).

Retirement is a time to recall where God has led us from — and the blessings that occurred on that adventure.

# Pope says despite threat of war it's possible to create peace

## The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite desperate times and the threat of war, it is possible to create real peace and have hope for the future, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

During a "disastrous time, indeed, desperate," St. Gregory the Great "was a man who was immersed in God" and "knew how to create peace and give hope" to his people, Pope Benedict said.

The pope dedicated his May 28 audience talk in St. Peter's Square to this sixth-century pope and doctor of the church. Pope Benedict said the saint's hard work, administrative abilities and fatherly concern for people's welfare meant that he often successfully faced the "grave problems" society and the church were facing, notably the constant threat of a Lombard invasion.

The saint was "immersed in God," he said, and one could see that his yearning to be with God was "always alive deep in his soul." He "is a guide for us in our times today," because his love for God "shows us where the true sources of peace" spring and where true hope lies.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's catechesis we turn to Pope St. Gregory the Great, who governed the church of Rome at the end of the sixth century and is venerated as a doctor of the church. Born of a noble Roman family, Gregory entered the civil service, in which he rose to the dignity of prefect of the city, and then embraced the monastic life.

Gregory's learning and experience, and his outstanding personal gifts, led to his appointment as the papal representative to the imperial court in Constantinople, and then as the pope's secretary. In the year 590, Gregory was elected pope.

His papal ministry was marked by tireless energy and a clear vision of the grave problems facing civil society and the church. Gregory made every effort to contain the Lombard invasion, to provide for the evangelization of that people and to establish peace throughout Italy.

In addition to his preaching, teaching and pastoral activity, he also reorganized the management of the church's goods and ensured a more effective administration of her charitable works.

At a time of great social instability, and despite his frequent ill health, Gregory proved an effective, prudent and saintly pastor, whose life and teaching continue to inspire us today.

# The conservation of energy: More than a question of economics

*Stewardship of the environment becoming major theme for Pope Benedict*

Gas is getting perilously close to \$4 a gallon where I live, as it is in much of the United States. And while some countries would call that a bargain, it's hitting the American pocketbook hard.

So with three cars in my family and two kids with summer jobs, the challenge is not just scheduling the cars but making sure everybody takes a turn filling the tank.

Going out for the evening? Ante up. Heating fuel and other energy costs are rising steadily, too, so with all this energy inflation it came as a crushing blow — pardon the pun — when an avalanche tore through Alaska's capital city of Juneau and destroyed major transmission towers, which carry more than 80 percent of the city's power from a nearby hydroelectric dam.

Boom! Just like that, in a powerful natural disaster, folks in the picturesque city along the coast in Southeast Alaska faced an energy crisis of major proportions.

Until repairs are completed this summer, the city is using mainly diesel fuel, a very expensive alternative.

The new electricity rate is about five times the 11 cents per kilowatt-hour it was before the snow came sliding down

the mountain.

So what's the result? Well, of course, there's some complaining, and some pleas for state assistance, which has been sparse so far.

But the big result, as reported in a recent New York Times article, is that Juneau has suddenly become very conservationist. Says the Times: "Juneau has cut its electricity use by more than 30 percent in a matter of weeks, instantly establishing itself as a role model for how to go green, and fast."

Now, I wouldn't wish a rampaging avalanche on anyone, much less any other natural or manmade disaster. But wouldn't it be great if we could all marshal that kind of resolve to cut energy use for the sake of the planet and to cut our dependency on foreign sources of energy?

Remember the clothesline? I'm not sure my mother even owned a dryer when I was growing up on the farm. White sheets waving in the hot Nebraska wind were a familiar sight in those days.

But many years later, after Mom moved to a town, she ignored her dryer most of the time and carried the laundry out to the line.

"Don't these sheets smell good?"

## For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



she'd remark about a freshly made bed.

Do you ever see clotheslines now, except in the oldest part of cities? Some neighborhood covenants purportedly ban them. What a shame.

The conservation of energy is not just a question of economics, although squeezing the wallet can propel us to conserve. More importantly, it's a question of stewardship, and Pope Benedict XVI has been making that point, even mentioning our responsibility to the earth when he spoke at the United Nations in April.

Stewardship of the environment is becoming a major theme for this pope.

Here are some of the things Juneau is doing to conserve energy, as reported in the Times: stores displaying televisions have them all turned off but one; the public library shut down one of two elevators, lights in public places have been dimmed and thermostats have been turned down during the chilly spring.

Despite the rainy climate, clotheslines are popping up everywhere, and people are dashing to buy compact fluorescent light bulbs.

How many of those things could be done in our own homes and cities?

What a challenge and a gift to the environment it would be to cut our energy use by 30 percent this summer!





CNS PHOTO BY ROGAN WARD, REUTERS

An African immigrant displaced by xenophobic violence feeds her child at Emmanuel Cathedral in Durban, South Africa, May 27. Hundreds of victims of xenophobic violence in South Africa are being housed in church halls in Durban as the country's faith communities and civil society rally to help those displaced.

## Offering 'hospitality, not hostility'

*South African churches rally to help victims of xenophobic violence*

BY BRONWEN DACHS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Hundreds of victims of xenophobic violence in South Africa are being housed in church halls in Durban as the country's faith communities and civil society rally to help those displaced.

"We're housing more than 430 people, mostly from Zimbabwe, but also from Mozambique, Malawi, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo," said Hupenyu Makusha, a coordinator in the Durban archdiocesan pastoral care for refugees project.

Churches in Durban have made their halls available for temporary housing and many people have donated food, blankets and clothes, Makusha told Catholic News Service in a May 27 telephone interview from Durban.

When the immediate crisis is over, the archdiocesan project will help with "voluntary repatriation for those who would rather go home than stay in the hostile atmosphere in South Africa," Makusha said.

More than 50 people have been killed in attacks on foreigners in South Africa. More than 30,000 people have been displaced and hundreds of suspects arrested since the attacks started in mid-May.

South African churches, faith communities and civil society are cooperating in their efforts to help the victims of the violence, said Kabelo Selema, who heads the justice and peace department for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference in Pretoria, in a May 27 telephone interview from Pretoria.

The commission plans for June 22 to be a "day of prayer for those affected by xenophobia as well as for the people in Zimbabwe," where a runoff presidential election is scheduled for June 27, Selema said.

"We need to reflect on what we, as Christians, can do," Selema said.

Up to 3 million Zimbabweans are estimated to have fled to South Africa to escape violence, severe shortages of basic commodities and 80

percent unemployment.

Ten million people are estimated to have come to South Africa seeking a better life since apartheid ended in 1994.

Archbishop George Daniel of Pretoria said that attacks on foreigners signal a lack of generosity to receive immigrants and asylum seekers.

"Xenophobia is a serious offense against God precisely because it violates the innate dignity of the human person," Archbishop Daniel and the priests in his archdiocese said in a May 22 statement.

"At its core, xenophobia is a failure to love our neighbor. Since we cannot claim to love God unless we love our neighbor, we can only be one with God if we reject xenophobia and work aggressively to remove it from our personal lives, our church and our society," they said.

The priests said they would do all they could to "offer all immigrants the pastoral care they need" and urged Catholics to offer them "hospitality, not hostility."

The Catholic Church is "extremely diverse, representing races and ethnic groups from every part of the globe," they said.

Noting that the situation is complex, the priests said South African President Thabo Mbeki's policy of quiet diplomacy in Zimbabwe "has proven fatal" and blamed the South African government for "not doing everything in its power to avert the causes that led to a looming immigrant crisis."

Noting that "the systematic lack of service delivery is a breeding ground for crime and lawlessness," they said, "Let us ensure that all South Africans and immigrants have access to basics: employment, food, shelter and dignity."

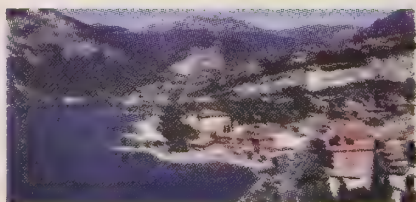
Zimbabwe's Jesuits called the xenophobic attacks "alarming news for our cross-border traders whose livelihood depends on going to South Africa to buy goods for resale in Zimbabwe."

Zimbabweans are now "caught between" the violence in their home country that followed March 29 elections and attacks on them in South Africa, they said in their late May newsletter.

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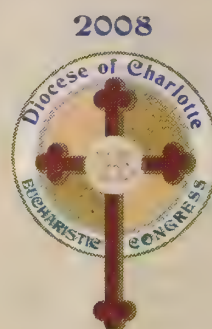
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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
- \* Art, color and the romance of Venice await us — St. Mark's Square, famous glassblowers, gondola rides, shopping — it's all there and so much more!

And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 before June 13 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

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## Perspectives

The need for success stories;  
social justice in theory and  
action; letters to the editor

| PAGES 14-15

## Making lay ministers

*Graduates to bring  
knowledge to roles in  
church, world*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

**HICKORY** — A call to ministry doesn't always mean a call to religious life.

The recent graduates of the lay ministry training program for the Diocese of Charlotte know that being a beacon of God's light is something they can do in the secular world on a daily basis.

A ceremony recognizing 41 graduates for their commitment to lay ministry was held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory June 1.

The lay ministry training program is a two-year program designed for women and men who wish to grow in confidence as they minister to others in their families, the church and the marketplace.

See MINISTRY, page 5

## To shepherd in the name of Christ



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priests line up for the laying on of hands during the ordination Mass of Fathers Tri Vinh Truong and Brandon Jones (kneeling), who were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 7.

## BISHOP JUGIS ORDAINS TWO NEW PRIESTS

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

**CHARLOTTE** — Father Brandon Jones and Father Tri Vinh Truong formally dedicated their lives to serving the Lord, the church and the people of God.

The men were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 7.

"The whole church of Charlotte praises God and thanks him today for the gift of two new priests for the church," said Bishop Jugis.

During his homily, Bishop Jugis spoke of the graces bestowed upon the two men in the sacrament of holy orders.

"It is God who gives you this gift of holy orders," said Bishop Jugis.

"Your being is changed

See PRIESTS, page 9



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Seven Sisters of Mercy celebrating their jubilee anniversaries as women religious renew their vows during a Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 31.

## Celebrating Sisters of Mercy

*Jubilarians honored for years of service,  
ministry to many*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

**CHARLOTTE** — More than 500 people gathered to celebrate the lives and ministries of women religious who have impacted thousands, both near and far.

The anniversaries of seven Sisters of Mercy were celebrated during a Mass and reception at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 31.

Diamond jubilarians (60

years) are Mercy Sister Marie Pierre Martinez, Mercy Sister Mary Alma Pangelinan and Mercy Sister Mary David Richard; golden jubilarians (50 years) are Mercy Sister Therese Galligan and Mercy Sister Clara Virginia Kelly; and silver jubilarians (25 years) are Mercy Sister Larretta Elizabeth Rivera-Williams and Mercy

See JUBILEE, page 7

## Aspiring to be agents of peace

*Program explores  
nonviolence of Jesus*

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

**MAGGIE VALLEY** — Five people in a circle faced each other and made their cases as to who had the truth in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

They took turns assuming the roles of Condoleezza Rice,

See PEACE, page 6



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## DAUGHTER'S FAITH, MOTHER'S INSPIRATION



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMMAREN FAMILY

Caitlin Hammaren (left) poses for a photo with her mother Marian in 2007. Caitlin, 19, who was a sophomore at Virginia Tech majoring in French and international relations, was one of 32 students and faculty members killed in the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

## Virginia Tech tragedy leads bereaved mother on journey back to faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Before April 16, 2007, Marian Hammaren of Westtown, N.Y., thought she knew what she'd been put on the earth to do: to be Caitlin's mother, to guide and protect her.

But 19-year-old Caitlin Hammaren, a sophomore at Virginia Tech and an only child, did not survive the tragedy on campus that day and Marian Hammaren was left wondering: "What's my job now?"

In a May 30 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, Hammaren described the dark times that followed the campus massacre that left her daughter and 32 other students and faculty members at Virginia Tech dead.

But she also spoke about a book that "set me back on the journey to God" and helped give her a new role in life.

"Despair doesn't even describe it," she said of the weeks following her daughter's death. "Heavy-hearted is a word you don't even grasp until you go through something like this."

After confirmation of Caitlin's death, Hammaren said she was "truly numb." She spent the next few days comforting Caitlin's friends and helping them "say a final goodbye" at a memorial service in Virginia.

She discovered in Caitlin's dorm room that "she was very religious, more than I actually knew," Hammaren said.

Among the books at Caitlin's bedside were an old catechism, a Bible, a book of quotes from Mr. Rogers and a book her father had recently bought her about "1,001 things to do before you die."

Raised a Catholic but "not practicing as I should have," Marian Hammaren said she found little comfort in her faith in those first dark weeks after the tragedy.

Because shopping had been a favorite

mother-daughter activity, she had been avoiding malls. But one day she found herself in a bookstore and was drawn to the religion section, where Anthony DeStefano's "Ten Prayers God Always Says Yes To" caught her eye.

That book led her to the Bible and other spiritual writings and to "A Travel Guide to Heaven," an earlier book by DeStefano, executive director of Priests for Life.

One day in her garden she began screaming at God about the injustice of Caitlin's death.

"I taught her to trust you. Where were you?" she recalled yelling. "I need to touch her hair, I need to hear her voice."

But Hammaren said "God didn't mind the little beating up I gave him" and graced her with a "very calm, gentle thought: 'If you want to see her, you have to go through me first.'"

Eventually she came to realize that "when Catie was alive, we were just her babysitters here on earth," she said. "I had to get past the fact that there could be a better parent than me, and understand that she was in the best hands possible."

That understanding and the hope that she will see her daughter again in heaven "helped me get out of the despair, out of the blackness," said Hammaren, now an active member of the Church of the Holy Cross in South Centerville, N.Y.

"I'm happy to be home," she said of her return to the faith. "I did not get it before. My daughter got it more."

And Hammaren sees a new purpose in talking about the journey she has taken.

"If I can get one other person back to God," she added, "then I think I'm doing what he wants me to."

## Jesuit urges U.N. to improve international protection of workers

GENEVA (CNS) — A Mexican Jesuit has urged the U.N. Human Rights Council to improve international protection for Mexican workers affected by transnational corporations working in Mexico.

"There is no real political will in Mexico to protect workers' rights. That is why we need international action," said Father Sergio Cobo, director of the Center for Reflection and Action on Labor Issues, at the eighth session of the council in Geneva in early June.

Father Cobo called on John Ruggie, U.N. special representative on labor and human rights, to recommend that the United Nations put in place an international ombudsman to investigate cases of abuse by transnational corporations in Mexico and throughout the world.

Father Cobo said that although 60,000 Mexican workers are technically unionized, 90 percent of them do not know they belong to a union. Foreign

companies pressure managers and sometimes union leaders to keep workers in the dark about their rights and the work of unions, he said.

The priest also listed other abuses, including demands for sexual favors from workers, of whom a high percentage are women, in exchange for vacation time.

Often, the Jesuit said, workers applying for jobs at such companies are asked if they have relatives who are lawyers, or if women are pregnant. Women workers who do get pregnant often have to work eight- to 10-hour days standing.

Ruggie said he was "deeply moved by the struggles" of Father Cobo and other human rights defenders.

He told them not to give up their struggle and said he intends to ensure his mandate will result in concrete measures that will improve the lives of those affected by corporate misbehavior throughout the world.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *children's rosary* will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. Participants are asked to gather in the church vestibule to process in with the statue of Mary and pray five decades of the rosary. Children will lead the decades. Feel free to bring a flower to place before the statue. If you have any questions, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Saturday of each month at 5 p.m. Confession at 4 p.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, contact Father Mark Shuey at [mshuey2@nc.rr.com](mailto:mshuey2@nc.rr.com) or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass for U.S. military personnel* July 6 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary (to be recited at 2:30 p.m.) will be offered for all military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. Military personnel are invited to attend in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving in the military will be displayed in the cathedral vestibule prior to the Mass. To include your loved one, please mail a photocopy of him or her with his or her name and military rank on the back of the picture to Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 to be received no later than July 2. (Photocopies of pictures will not be returned)

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Blanketeers* of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — *The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. W. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, at (828) 627-9209 or [jnell@dnnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican working on interreligious dialogue guidelines, official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is working on a new set of pastoral guidelines for interreligious dialogue, a leading official said.

The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue began pulling together elements for the guidelines at its plenary session in Rome, said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, council president.

"After many years of hesitation about the suitability of such a document, the time has arrived to offer pastors and the faithful some general orientations, which obviously will have to be adapted to local situations," Cardinal Tauran said in an opening address to the council's plenary meeting June 4.

The cardinal said the guidelines would be inspired in part by the Ten Commandments, which remain universal principles in a believer's relationship with God and with neighbors.

Cardinal Tauran offered no timeline for the new document, but said the

council's meeting should provide ample material for its preparation.

In 1991, the interreligious council published dialogue guidelines under the title "Dialogue and Proclamation." The document called for a balance between dialogue and evangelization and said proclaiming Christ must be done with sensitivity, humility and respect for other cultures.

Pope Benedict XVI named Cardinal Tauran to head the council last year.

In his opening address, the cardinal said the church must help Catholics understand that all believers share a common patrimony of values, including belief in God, the sacredness of life, the need for brotherhood, the experience of prayer and the language of religion.

For their part, he said, Christians need to proclaim openly that Christ is the way, the truth and the life, and be "prepared to share their spiritual convictions and to consider those of others," he said.

# Nine pilgrimage sites in Rome readied for Pauline year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nine Rome pilgrimage sites linked to the life of St. Paul are being readied for visitors during the jubilee year dedicated to the apostle, church officials announced.

Pope Benedict XVI plans to inaugurate the Pauline year June 28 at an evening prayer service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. He will light a votive lamp that will burn continually during the jubilee, which ends June 29, 2009.

Vatican officials are hoping pilgrims and religious tourists will give special attention to St. Paul, and the nine sites being promoted all have connections to the saint's life in Rome.

In addition to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, where St. Paul's tomb lies under the main altar, the sites include St. Peter's Basilica and the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Another site is the Abbey of the

Three Fountains, built on the spot where St. Paul was beheaded on the order of Roman Emperor Nero.

Two small churches are also featured on the pilgrim's route: San Paolo alla Regola (St. Paul's at Regola) and Santa Maria in Via Lata (Our Lady at Via Lata), traditionally considered the first and second houses where St. Paul lived and taught in Rome.

The church of Santa Prisca on the Aventine Hill is included. It was believed to be the residence of St. Prisca, a first-century martyr known by St. Paul.

Also on the route are the basilica and catacombs dedicated to St. Sebastian. The relics of St. Paul were thought to have been preserved in these catacombs before being moved to their permanent burial site.

A final stop is the Mamertine Prison near the Roman Forum, where St. Paul was believed to have been incarcerated.

through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. The next workshop will be July 19, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s will take place at Natty Greene's Pub and Brewing Co., 345 S. Elm St. The next sessions will be held Wednesday evenings, June 18 and 26. Socializing begins at 6:45 p.m. Speaker begins at 7:45 p.m. For more information, e-mail [greensborotot@yahoo.com](mailto:greensborotot@yahoo.com) or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — *Lessons in Discipleship: Living out the Sermon on the Mount*, part of the Saturday School of Faith for adults, will take place at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., June 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m. This session will look at the final section of Jesus' key teaching for all his disciples. There will be question-and-answer time to help clarify points of Catholic teaching or practice. To register, e-mail [jmccullough@olgchurch.org](mailto:jmccullough@olgchurch.org) or call (336) 274-6520.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

## SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — June 22-27 is designated as *Vacation Bible School Week* at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The adult classes will be led by Rev. Ben Bushyhead on June 22 at 6:30 p.m., and June 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. The children's vacation Bible school will be held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be a closing Mass for all participants followed by a potluck dinner, June 27 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

MURPHY — *Scripture study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters* is being offered now through the first week in August at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The classes are held on Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m. Each session includes reflection on Scripture, commentary, daily questions and a brief synopsis. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — A *Flag Day Ceremony* will be sponsored by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Council 8509 June 14, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at the picnic area of Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. A formal American flag retirement ceremony will be conducted. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. If you have a flag in need of proper disposal, call Steve Salvitti at (336) 993-4401.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the public? Deadline for submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# On the spot



CNS PHOTO BY TODD HABINGER

Monks from St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kan., celebrate an outdoor Mass April 26 in Doniphan, Kan., to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of their abbey. The Mass was celebrated at the spot Father Casimir Seitz, one of the three founding monks of St. Benedict's Abbey, celebrated his first Mass 151 years earlier.

# Pope meets privately with Muslim, Catholic representatives

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI met with members of the Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee in a private audience June 11 at the Vatican.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran and Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, president and secretary, respectively, of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, also were at the audience.

The committee was meeting in Rome June 11-13 to discuss the theme "Christians and Muslims: God's Witnesses of Justice, Peace and Compassion in a

World That Suffers From Violence."

The joint committee meets regularly and was created in 1995 by Vatican and Muslim representatives as a way to promote mutual understanding, strengthen religious values and contribute to peace and justice.

It includes representatives from major international Islamic organizations, including the Saudi-based International Islamic Forum for Dialogue, the Muslim World League and the World Muslim Conference.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 23-25  
Bishops' provincial meeting  
Raleigh

June 27 (7 p.m.)  
Opening Mass for  
N.C. Black Catholic Conference  
Raleigh

June 29 (10 a.m.)  
125th anniversary Mass for  
Sacred Heart Church  
Catawba College, Salisbury

June 29 (3 p.m.)  
Groundbreaking ceremony  
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

## ATTENTION READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is currently on its bi-weekly printing schedule for June, July and August. Our next issue will be Friday, June 27.

Have a news event or story idea to share? Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

For photos of recent diocesan events, visit [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



## Celebrating Corpus Christi



COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus flank Father Tim Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, during a Corpus Christi procession May 25. The event was in celebration of the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ May 22.

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated a Mass and led a Corpus Christi procession through the streets of Rome, which was followed by Eucharistic adoration and Benediction, to mark the feast day May 22. In his homily, the pope said the rites and rituals of the feast day explain what the feast is about: "First, we are gathered around the altar of the Lord to be together in his presence; second, there will be the procession, which is walking with the Lord"; and, finally, all the faithful will kneel before the Eucharist, honoring Jesus Christ who gave his life for the salvation of all.

The Eucharist has the power to unite people, strengthen them and remind them that only God is worthy of worship, said Pope Benedict.

By walking in procession and following Jesus present in the Eucharist, he said, Catholics remind themselves that "the Lord Jesus liberates us from our paralysis, he makes us get up and proceed, he helps us take a step forward, then another."

## Rummaging around



COURTESY PHOTO

People look over items available for sale during a parish rummage sale at St. Joseph Church in Asheboro May 24. Proceeds from the rummage sale, sponsored by the Ladies Guild and Knights of Columbus Council 10891, went toward the parish building fund.

## A potential way to promote life

### Bishops encourage support for bill for 'Choose Life' plates

BY DAVID HAINS  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Pro-life advocates in North Carolina could soon promote their support for life on their vehicles with special license plates.

An effort is underway in the N.C. General Assembly to make available a plate with the words "Choose Life" and the faces of two children on it.

The bill, HB 932, is being supported jointly by the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

Earlier this month, priests in the Diocese of Charlotte received via e-mail a letter from Msgr. Michael Clay, legislative liaison for the Diocese of Raleigh. The letter asks for prayers and support for the passage of the bill by the House Finance Committee.

The letter also includes a list of legislators serving on the finance committee who reside in the diocese.

"I ask for your help in creating the momentum needed to move our legislators beyond their fears to enact this legislation," wrote Msgr. Clay.

The letter and the list of legislators can be viewed on the diocesan Web site at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

Currently North Carolina issues 122 specialty license plates that promote issues from environmental causes to colleges. There is even a plate promoting Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Funds raised through the sale of the



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHOOSE LIFE, INC.

"Choose Life" plates will be distributed by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to nonprofit crisis pregnancy centers that do not offer abortion-related services, referrals or counseling.

Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, said the "Choose Life" license plates would allow for more freedom of expression by pro-life Christians.

"Anything that we can do to promote the sanctity of life as an issue is important both to the unborn and for the advancement of our Christian mission," said Nadol.

The nonprofit organization Choose Life, Inc. reports that 18 states, including South Carolina, currently make the "Choose Life" plate available. Ten other states are actively considering it.

Contact Communications Director David Hains by calling (704) 370-3336, or e-mail [dwhains@charlottediocese.org](mailto:dwhains@charlottediocese.org).

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## FROM THE COVER

# Lay ministry graduates to bring knowledge to world

MINISTRY, from page 1

"The program is not informational; it is formational," said Frank Villaronga, director for evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The role of the laity is to respond to their baptismal calls to participate in the ministry of the church," said Villaronga. "That may mean doing it in their particular roles in life."

One of the goals of the lay ministry training program is to help participants discern their calls to ministry in the church, but "it's up to each person to discern what that role will be," said Villaronga.

Participants meet approximately 12 times a year for two years for classes on various topics related to ministry and church teaching.

"I would say that it's for any lay person who is interested in knowing more about his or her faith and putting that faith into practice," said Villaronga.

Program participants come from all walks of life. Some come into the program with doctorate degrees while others have high school diplomas. Some have been actively involved in the church for years while others are just discovering their faith.

"There is a bond that happens," said Villaronga. "Friendships form."

"It is not the primary purpose of the program, but it's a really good byproduct," he added. "They walk together and help each other through the process."

## A chance encounter

Don Edgerton heard about the program during a visit to St. William Church in Murphy a little over two years ago.

"I had no idea what it was," he said. "Not the slightest idea. But something hit me."

Edgerton's draw to the program may be a bit more dramatic than most.

For him, the call to lay ministry meant selling his businesses and moving from Florida to North Carolina. He underwent a complete lifestyle change.

"This (program) is something that if you expose yourself to one time, it is contagious," he said.

"If you let the Spirit work within you, it is a life-changing event," he added.

As a lay volunteer, Edgerton hopes to get involved in prison ministry. He said he asks God every day for guidance in knowing how best to use his gifts.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The lay ministry training program was formed in 1990. Training sites for the 2008-2010 program are in Bryson City, Charlotte, Greensboro and Lenoir, with a Spanish-language version in Salisbury. Sessions begin in August.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan lay ministry training program visit [www.charlottediocese.org/layministry](http://www.charlottediocese.org/layministry).

"The lay ministry training program for me is the most fulfilling thing that I've been able to do in my faith life," he said.

His enthusiasm for lay ministry is something he is eager to share with those around him.

"I treat the Catholic lay ministry program sort of like a good book: If you read a good book and you get done, the first thing you do is run to a friend to tell them to read it," he said.

## Room for growth

Michelle Calascione is the faith formation coordinator at St. William Church. When she started the lay ministry training program two years ago, it was to better equip her to perform her job.

As a college graduate and a practicing Catholic, she was certainly qualified for her job, but she recognized a need to grow deeper in her understanding of the faith.

"I didn't feel like my knowledge was sound enough to be a faith formation coordinator for other adults," said Calascione.

Knowing very little about the program, she was uncertain of what to expect. "I kind of went into it blind," she said.

But after the first class she was pleasantly surprised.

"I walked away from the first day realizing how much I needed to learn and how much I was going to learn," she said.

She hopes to encourage fellow parishioners to take part in the next training program.

"There are many individuals who feel that they know all they need to know about their faith," she said. "This program shows that there is so much that we don't know."

## Lasting friendships

Pat Voelker has always been an active participant at her parish, St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Over the years she has volunteered as a lector and an instructor for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program.

For Voelker, who took the training in the Greensboro Vicariate, the best part of the program was the bonds she formed with her fellow group members.

"It was truly a group experience, it wasn't just individuals gathering and talking about these topics," said Voelker.

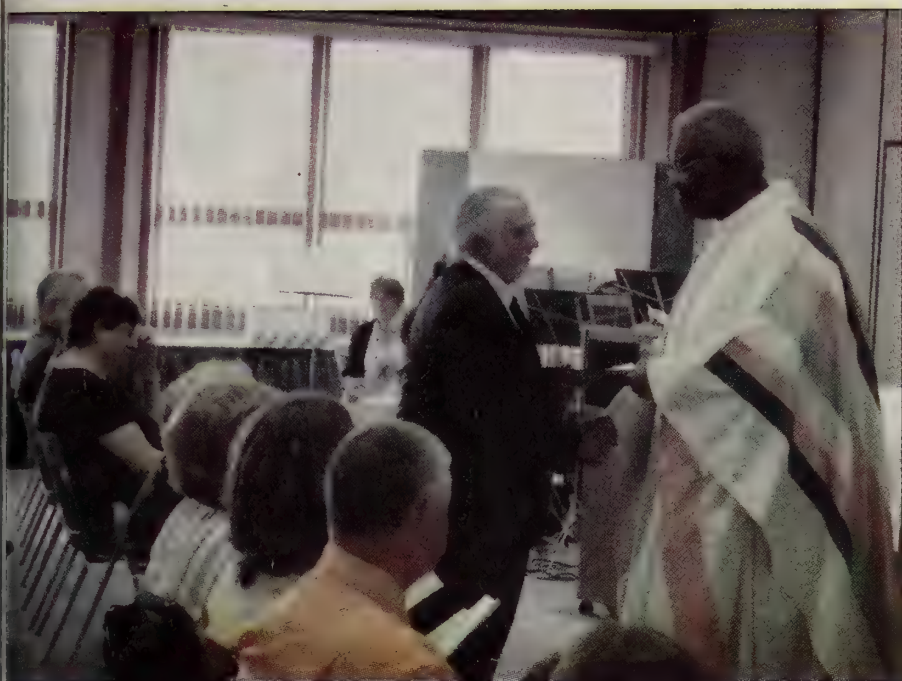
"It's about getting to know other people who have this understanding that they need to do more — that they need to serve," she said. "Being around people who have that mindset really encourages you to serve."

Now that she has completed the training, she plans on becoming more involved with the RCIA team at her parish. Having completed the training, "I think I can be more effective," she said.

With her retirement coming up in August, she is hoping to use the extra free time to do more charitable work.

"I want to be a presence in the community," said Voelker.

"Life doesn't just happen in church on Sundays," she said. "Christian life is happening all the time and we're called to bring Christ into the world all the time."



COURTESY PHOTO BY BARBARA GADDY

Don Edgerton receives a certificate of completion from Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, during the lay ministry training program graduation ceremony at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory June 1. The lay ministry training program is designed for those who wish to grow in confidence as they minister to others in their families, the church and the community.

## Laborers of the Lord's harvest

*Lay ministry training program pre-requisite for permanent diaconate*

CHARLOTTE — For those men considering serving in the Diocese of Charlotte as permanent deacons, the diocesan lay ministry training program is the first step.

The two-year program, designed for men and women who wish to grow in confidence as they minister to others, is a pre-requisite for the diaconate formation program.

"This Sunday's gospel calls for 'laborers' to go out and work in the master's harvest," said Deacon George Szalony, permanent diaconate formation director.

Permanent deacons are the "laborers" and more are needed, he said.

Those interested in joining the permanent diaconate must be at least 35 years old, but must not have reached age 65 by 2014.

They must have the consent of their wives, if married; the endorsement of their pastors; and be U.S. citizens or legal, permanent residents of the United States by December 2009.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the permanent diaconate, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/deacons.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/deacons.html), or e-mail [deaconscoff@charter.net](mailto:deaconscoff@charter.net) or [gszalony@msn.com](mailto:gszalony@msn.com).



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## Summer Bible Institute

Sunday, July 20 – Friday, July 25

**Old Testament: (Sunday night – Thursday night)**

**Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM**

Topic: "The Psalms: Model and Guide To Prayer"

**New Testament: (Monday morning – Friday morning)**

**Margaret Nutting Ralph**

Topic: "And God Said What?"

For further information, contact The Oratory.



# Program explores the nonviolence of Jesus, others

PEACE, from page 1

U.S. secretary of state; Ehud Olmert, Israeli prime minister and leader of the Kadima party; Ban Ki-Moon, U.N. secretary-general; Khalid Mashaal, co-leader of Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement; and Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah leader and president of the Palestinian Authority.

The role-players were attending "Walking with Jesus, Micah and Gandhi: Living Nonviolently Today," at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center May 31.

J. Patrick Mahon, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in Hayesville, presented the program. He and his wife, Joan, coordinate the Pax Christi chapter at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"It was interesting trying to shift gears," said Augustinian Father Liam Tomás O'Doherty, of the Friary of Lecceto, the Augustinian community in Maggie Valley.

"I felt conciliatory as the secretary-general and as Condoleezza Rice, and I wanted to create resolution," said Tim Mahoney-Lynch, a parishioner at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley. "When I was playing the other roles, I had some fire in my belly."

"After awhile you do begin to feel how hard it is to give up something that's been a part of them for so long," said Donna Mahoney-Lynch, also of St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

"It brought to my mind how difficult the hopes of people must be," said Kathy Tilley of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, one of those observing the role-playing.

The exercise illustrated that no one ever has all the truth and that part of seeking the truth in any situation is trying to understand all sides of the issue.

A dozen people attended the program, which took its theme from the prophet Micah: "You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Micah, Jesus and Mohandas Gandhi all lived under repressive regimes yet advocated peace and nonviolence.

Elements found in gospel nonviolence are justice, gratitude for the gift of creation, humility, listening, love for community, wisdom (not just knowledge), courage, love and hope.

The early church, Mahon said, thrived on Matthew 5:43-48, which describes how Christians are to love rather than hate their enemies and to pray for those who persecute them.

"Unless now the world adopts nonviolence, it will spell the suicide of humanity," said Ghandi, who read the "Sermon on the Mount" (the beatitudes) (Matthew 5) every day. "Nonviolence

"We have to show that nonviolence is authentic Christianity. God is a God of peace and reconciliation."

— Father George Kloster

is the only thing the atom bomb cannot destroy."

"True peace has nothing to do with arms," Mahon said. "It's the peace of Jesus on the cross, drawing all people to him through the power of his nonviolent love."

"As a culture, we've accepted violence, given it approbation," said Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate and pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission.

"If you question the use of violence, you're suspect," he continued. "We have to show that nonviolence is authentic Christianity. God is a God of peace and reconciliation."

Peace must begin within each person making it his or her constant attitude and habit of living.

Justice and peace activists themselves, passionately defending their views, can sometimes err on the side of violence. Mahon cautioned that activists cannot be self-righteous and must examine their motivations to discern unconscious motives they might have, including "look how bad they are and

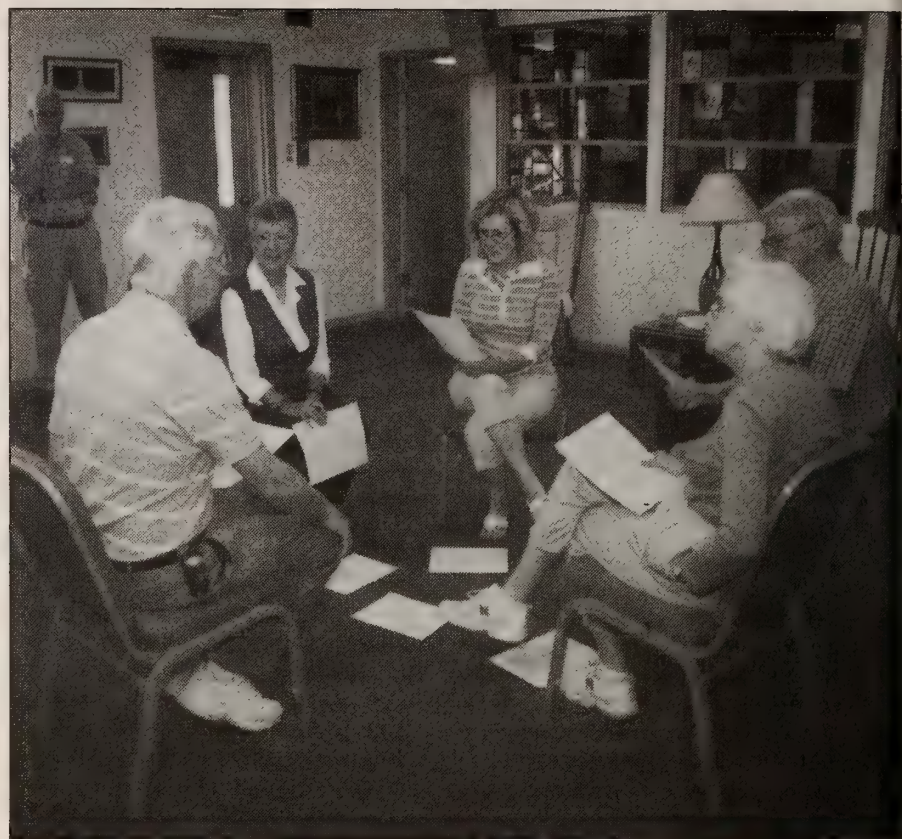


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Role-players learn just how difficult it is to see all sides of an issue during "Walking with Jesus, Micah and Gandhi: Living Nonviolently Today" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley May 31. Clockwise from left: Tim Mahoney-Lynch; Joan Mahon; Donna Mahoney-Lynch; Augustinian Father Liam Tomás O'Doherty of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley; and Barbara Lewis. Pat Mahon, who presented the program, observes in the background.

how good I am."

Remedies to prevent such attitudes include prayer, studying the issues and nonviolently resisting identified evils such as consumerism, militarism, sexism, capital punishment, classism and racism.

Anger can be appropriate. Mahon quoted St. Thomas Aquinas, who said, "It is the mark of a virtuous man to be angry at injustice."

In the afternoon, attendees had quiet time to work on individual plans for nonviolent living.

In the wrap-up session, Tim Mahoney-Lynch said that he starts and ends each day with peace, which sets the tone for his actions throughout the day.

"I begin the day with an attitude

of gratitude," he said. "I look at my relationships: Are there people in my life — living or dead — with whom I'm not at peace?"

During evening prayer, he and his wife recommit themselves to each other.

To become fully informed about issues, Donna Mahoney-Lynch said, "Make sure you question, question, question, and make sure the answers suit you. It's important to have good mentors. I've learned to live simply, gently, gracefully. I've learned how to give back."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail [jnell@dnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnet.net).



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## VOCATIONS

# Jubilarians honored for years of service, ministry

JUBILEE, from page 1

Sister Nancy Marie Nance.

"They accepted God's call to come and serve as women religious," said Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina.

"We thank God who has given us these women religious on our faith journeys," she said.

The jubilarians have ministered throughout North Carolina and at the Sisters of Mercy mission in Guam.

"The Sisters of Mercy community has done so much to nurture us and the church," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church, who celebrated the Mass.

"We come here today to celebrate these women and the work they have done," said Father Frank Cancro, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and homilist for the jubilee Mass.

During his homily, Father Cancro related the ministries of the jubilarians

to working in a garden. When tending a garden, he said, there is often a lot of hard work and sweat involved.

"We celebrate the sweat that has allowed them to use their gifts ... to open their hearts and respond 'yes' to some hardships they've had to endure here, in Guam and everywhere they've been called to be," said Father Cancro.

Beauty, he said, is a word that comes to mind when one thinks of a garden, and a beautiful garden is often the result of hard work.

"We celebrate the beauty of these individual women ... beauty that allows us to see in them the beauty and power of the Gospel they proclaim ... in every breath and aspect of their lives," said Father Cancro.

"For all your sweat, hard work and beauty, we say thank you. On behalf of the whole church that has benefited and seen the beautiful face of God in your work, thank you," he said to the jubilarians.

"Thank you for allowing us to walk with you, until finally and forever we are home," he added.

## Mercy Sister Marie Pierre Martinez

Born in Guam, Sister Martinez entered the Sisters of Mercy June 20, 1948 and made her perpetual profession Aug. 13, 1956. Her ministries include serving as a teacher and principal and in administrative appointments in the United States and Guam. Ministries in Guam included serving in chaplaincy ministry at Guam Memorial Hospital; serving as chair to the Continuing Formation Committee and as a member of the Formation/Education Board and Mercy Personnel Board. She also was a coordinator at Agana Mercy Convent.

## Mercy Sister Mary Alma Pangelinan

Born in Guam and growing up amid the Japanese invasion during World War II, Sister Pangelinan was forced to live in caves to avoid capture and forced labor. That experience fueled her desire to enter the Sisters of Mercy on Dec. 6, 1947, in Guam. By 1950, she was missioned with four other Sisters on the southern part of Guam, where they taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes in various villages. Her ministries include teaching in Guam and the United States, and working in the food services department and finance office at her regional community in Belmont.

## Mercy Sister Mary David Richard

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Sister Richard always knew she wanted to be a woman religious. Not long after entering the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 15, 1947, she was ministering and teaching in Guam. Her stateside ministry includes service at Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh, Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte and various ministries in Belmont.

## Mercy Sister Therese Galligan

Born in Akron, Ohio, Sister Galligan entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1957 and taught for several years in the parochial school system of the Diocese of Raleigh. With education and training in nursing, she has been an active participant in numerous

charitable organizations related to health care, bereavement, nursing and hospice.

In 1979, she helped establish a hospice program in western North Carolina. She later served as vice president of the board of directors, nurse coordinator and executive director of Mountain Area Hospice, Inc. in Asheville, the fifth hospice program for North Carolina.

## Mercy Sister Clara Virginia Kelly

Born in Spencer, N.C., Sister Kelly entered the Sisters of Mercy Jan. 26, 1958. After final profession of vows in 1963, her ministries included various nursing and administrative roles in health care in Asheville, Charlotte and Florida.

While at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, she served on its board of directors for 13 years, and served as health care coordinator for her religious community. She presently ministers at Consulate Health Care in Melbourne, Fla.

## Mercy Sister Larretta Elizabeth Rivera-Williams

Born in Winston-Salem, N.C., Sister Rivera-Williams attended St. Benedict the Moor School and Bishop McGuinness High School. She entered the Sisters of Mercy Sept. 8, 1982. With degrees in social work and religious education, and certifications in pastoral education and critical stress management, she has served as director of religious education and pastoral associate at St. Benedict the Moor Church. She currently serves as assistant chaplain at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.

## Mercy Sister Nancy Marie Nance

Born in Alton, Ill., Sister Nance entered the Sisters of Mercy Sept. 8, 1982. Since 1985, she has had one major ministerial assignment — working with children and adults with mental retardation at Holy Angels in Belmont. She helped establish Cherubs Café and Candy Bouquets in Belmont, which provides vocational training and meaningful supported employment for individuals with mental retardation. She currently serves as outreach services director.

## Pastoral Assignments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following pastoral changes:

### APPOINTMENTS OF PASTORS

**Effective July 8**

**Father Paul Gary**

From: Rector, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte  
To: Pastor, St. Luke Church, Mint Hill

**Father Adrian Porras**

From: Pastor, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill; Sacred Heart Mission, Burnsville  
To: Pastor, St. Barnabas Church, Arden

**Father Tien Duong**

From: Pastor, Our Lady of the Mountains Mission, Highlands; St. Jude Mission, Sapphire Valley  
To: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin

**Father Fred Werth Jr.**

From: Parochial vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons  
To: Pastor, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill; Sacred Heart Mission, Burnsville

**Father Dean Cesa**

From: Pastor, St. Barnabas Church, Arden  
To: Pastor, Our Lady of the Mountains Mission, Highlands; St. Jude Mission, Sapphire Valley

### APPOINTMENTS OF PAROCHIAL VICARS

**Effective July 8**

**Father Nohé Torres**

From: Parochial vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte  
To: Parochial vicar, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

**Father Jean Pierre Lhoposo**

From: Parochial vicar, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury  
To: Parochial vicar, St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

**Father Richard DeClue**

From: Theological studies in Washington, D.C.  
To: Parochial vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

**Father Tri Vinh Truong**

From: Newly ordained  
To: Parochial vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons

**Father Brandon Jones**

From: Newly ordained  
To: Parochial vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

### OTHER

**Effective May 1**

**Father Patrick Winslow**

To: Summer academic studies in canon law, while continuing as pastor, St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon

**Effective July 1**

**Father Eric Houseknecht**

From: Sabbatical year of study  
To: Pastoral ministry, Diocese of Phoenix

**Effective July 8**

**Father Christopher Roux**

From: In residence, St. Ann Church, Charlotte  
To: Rector, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**Father Julio Dominguez**

From: Parochial vicar, St. Aloysius Church, Hickory  
To: Administrator, new central region Hispanic ministry program

**Father Robert Conway**

From: Parochial vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte  
To: Chaplain, Holy Trinity Middle School, Charlotte Catholic High School; in residence, Cardinal Newman House, Charlotte

**Father Matthew Kauth**

From: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin  
To: Academic studies in moral theology

**Father Roger Arnsparger**

To: Vicar for education, while continuing as pastor, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia

**Father James Hawker**

From: Pastor, St. Luke Church, Mint Hill  
To: Retirement at his own request



# Guided by the Holy Spirit



COURTESY PHOTO BY BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Pope John Paul II embraces Bishop Peter J. Jugis at his priestly ordination in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 12, 1983.

## Bishop Jugis, priests recognized for years of service

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis was recently honored for the 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Bishop Jugis, who celebrated his anniversary June 12, and 11 other priests celebrating jubilee anniversaries were recognized during a Mass at the bi-annual priests' convocation in Asheville June 10.

Also recognized was Father James Hawker, vicar of education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, who is retiring in July.

A native of Charlotte, Bishop Jugis graduated from South Mecklenburg High School in 1975 and, while studying accounting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, he began to contemplate life as a priest.

"I just began to realize my heart wasn't in the accounting field," said Bishop Jugis in a 2003 interview with The Catholic News & Herald. "I could do it intellectually, but I just didn't feel that this was what I wanted to give my

life to totally."

After a year of discernment and after talking with several priests and then-Bishop Michael J. Begley, and with encouragement from his parents, Bishop Jugis applied to be a seminarian of the diocese in 1979.

He studied at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, and was ordained by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica June 12, 1983.

Then-Father Jugis served at numerous parishes across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, including St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe.

In November 1985 he was appointed to be a diocesan tribunal judge, and in August 1987 began studies for his doctorate in canon law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

In 1992, Bishop Jugis became the first priest of the diocese to receive a doctorate in canon law. Six years later, he began working full-time for the diocesan tribunal while regularly serving as administrator or pastor in churches around the diocese.

It was in July 2003 that Archbishop Gabriel Mantalvo, then-papal nuncio to the United States, called to tell him he was appointed to be the next bishop of Charlotte. It was a humbling moment — one that brought him to his knees, recalled Bishop Jugis.

When he was ordained and installed as the fourth bishop of Charlotte at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 24, 2003 at the age of 46, he was one of the youngest bishops in the United States.

Being a bishop is a tremendous responsibility, said Bishop Jugis.

"I try not to think of the enormity of the task, but just want to serve the best that I can, and let the Holy Spirit guide and show me what has to be done," he said.

"It is a special grace and a blessing to be chosen as a bishop where I've already served, where I've really spent all of my life," said Bishop Jugis. "I was one of the priests helping to build up the diocese. Now I'm building up the diocese in a different way as bishop."

### Celebrating 60 years

- Jesuit Father William Lynch

### Celebrating 55 years

- Father Joseph Kelleher  
- Msgr. Thomas Walsh  
- Benedictine Father Kenneth Geyer

### Celebrating 50 years

- Father Richard McCue  
- Jesuit Father Vincent de Paul Alagia  
- Benedictine Father David Kessinger  
- Redemptorist Father Edward Gray  
- Franciscan Capuchin Father Jude Duffy

### Celebrating 25 years

- Bishop Peter J. Jugis  
- Father John Hanic  
- Father John Schneider

### Retiring

- Father James Hawker

Look for stories about these jubilarian priests in the next issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

Fathers Dean Cesa, Chris Davis, Matt Leonard and Peter Pham celebrate their 10-year anniversaries to the priesthood this month. Look for their stories in the next issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

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# “The Lord will work through your ministry to produce the fruits of salvation ...”

## Bishop Jugis ordains two new priests

PRIESTS, from page 1

by this powerful grace, making you a sacrament of Christ the high priest, capable of acting in the person of Christ,” he told them.

Bishop Jugis also spoke of the priests’ sacramental identification with Christ and how it is threefold. As priests they will take on the roles of teacher, nourishing people on the Gospel; sanctifier, administering the sacraments to the people; and shepherd, leading their flock to the pastures of eternal life.

“By your teaching, sanctifying and shepherding in the name of Christ, the Lord will work through your ministry to produce the fruit of salvation in the people you serve — the fruit which remains unto eternal life,” he said.

### Father Brandon Jones

Father Jones grew up in Elkin, where he was raised in the Baptist church. He was first introduced to the Catholic faith at age 11, when his cousin — Father Jay Scott Newman, current pastor of St. Mary Church in Greenville, S.C. in the Diocese of Charleston — converted to the Catholic faith.

Father Conrad Kimbrough, then-pastor of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro was the first priest Father Jones ever met.

“I remember I was 13-years-old

at the time and he asked me, ‘Do you believe in the Bible?’ When I said yes, he said ‘Well my church wrote it.’”

“That was a formative event in my conversion to the faith,” said Father Jones.

At age 17, Father Jones was received into the Catholic Church at St. Stephen Church in Elkin. A few years later, while studying Latin at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he first considered the priesthood.

He began his studies for the priesthood in 1993 when he entered the Theological College at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Two years later, then-Bishop William G. Curlin assigned him to the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

In the following years, Father Jones considered a vocation with the Dominican order of priests; worked as a Latinist, editing and annotating documents; and earned licentiate degrees in philosophy and theology.

In 2006, he decided to return to the diocesan priesthood track and completed his studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania.

During the past five months, Father Jones has served as a transitional deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

“A priest has to be primarily a man of prayer,” said Father Jones. “He has to have a lively interior life and to be in close communion with our Lord in order to bring him to others.”

Father Jones has been assigned to serve as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

### Father Tri Vinh Truong

Father Truong was born in Vinh Long Province, Vietnam. In 1994, his family was granted refugee status,



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Fathers Tri Vinh Truong (left) and Brandon Jones (right) lie prostrate before the altar during their ordination Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 7. The congregation joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis (center), diocesan and visiting priests, deacons and seminarians in prayer for the church, its people and the priestly candidates.

allowing them to immigrate to the United States.

After living for a year in Atlanta, the family moved to Charlotte, where they currently reside.

Father Truong graduated from St. Xavier University in Chicago and worked for a health care company for several years. But, a vocation to the priesthood continued to call to him.

“I’ve wanted to be a priest for a long time,” he said.

He attended Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., where he studied canon law, theology, systematic theology, homiletics (preaching) and Scripture.

During his last year at seminary, he served as a transitional deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa.

As a priest, he said he is looking forward to “carrying out the saving work of God in Christ Jesus.”

“I’m looking to serve the people in any way that I can,” he said. “My main goal is to carry out Christ’s salvation to the world.”

Father Troung has been assigned to serve as parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

### Ordination Mass

Concelebrants of the ordination Mass at St. Vincent de Paul included Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Father Christopher Gober, director of diocesan vocations; priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte; and visiting priests. Also in attendance was

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

During the rite of ordination, Fathers Jones and Truong made their promises to fulfill the office of the priesthood. Kneeling, they placed their hands between Bishop Jugis’ hands in a promise of obedience to him and to his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the church, its people and the priestly candidates as they lay prostrate before the altar.

During the rite’s most solemn moment, Fathers Jones and Truong knelt before Bishop Jugis, who laid his hands on their heads. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidates and prayed the prayer of consecration.

The new priests were vested with astoles and chasubles — outer garments of the priestly office. Bishop Jugis anointed their hands with sacred chrism and each was then presented with a chalice and a paten signifying his role as a celebrant of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained priests then joined their brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening a new chapter in each of their lives.

“The church has gained two fine men who have sacrificed much to follow Christ,” said Father Gober.

“Their witness gives hope both to the faithful and to the many seminarians who will accompany them shortly,” he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

### WANT MORE PHOTOS?

More photos of the ordination are online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Priestly candidates Brandon Jones (left) and Tri Vinh Truong (right) stand before the congregation during their ordination Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 7.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Books, DVD aim to ready preschoolers for learning Catholic faith

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — After nearly 30 years of teaching religious education to children ages 3 to 14, Peggy Olds of Willowbrook, Ill., was convinced of one thing.

Although parents spend a lot of time teaching their preschoolers their ABCs, numbers and other information needed to prepare them for first grade, she said, they don't do the same to ready their children for learning the basics of their Catholic faith.

Olds hopes to fill that gap with her "Questions for God" series, which aims to tell salvation history in a way that children can learn and retain it as easily as their ABCs.

Through 10 books of 16 pages each and a 50-minute DVD, the series takes on children's questions from "God, Who Are You?" through "God, How Did Jesus Save Us?" to "God, When Will We Be With You?"

Although written primarily for 3- to 6-year-olds, the books can be used with children up to sixth grade, as well as with others who learn best from simple concepts, such as the developmentally disabled, children or adults with English as a second language and the elderly, Olds said.

Audrey Merschman, a longtime

friend of Olds, prepared the watercolor illustrations for each book.

In a recent interview with Ave Maria Radio, Olds said the series also can help adults learn along with their children.

"So many parents did not receive good catechesis over the past 40 years," she said. "The DVD provides a simple family activity for learning together."

The series has received an imprimatur and "nihil obstat" — which grant official permission — from the Archdiocese of Chicago and a "declaration of conformity" from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Each book also includes one or more of the main church prayers — the Our Father, Sign of the Cross, Act of Contrition, Hail Mary and others — that the children are encouraged to learn by repeated recitation.

In a study guide for the series, Olds said the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel is especially apt in a society prone to seeking out superheroes.

"The superheroes in movies and on TV are not real — St. Michael is," she wrote. "He is a powerful ally for the young child who faces so many fears. ... Comic-book heroes can't measure up."

"Encourage learning this prayer early and encourage the child to call St. Michael whenever he/she feels shaky," she added.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 22, 2008

### June 22, Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 20:10-13  
Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
- 2) Romans 5:12-15  
Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33

### Catholics must be light in dark to protect humanity

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

W.D. doesn't blame his two lung transplants on the quarter century he spent working in the Virginia coal mines, "but it sure didn't help," he said.

No, he explained, his lungs failed because of a genetic condition that was present in only two of his parents' nine children.

W.D. has lived his entire life in Appalachia, a beautiful mountainous region of the eastern United States known for its paradoxical culture of riches and poverty.

Like most natives of Appalachia, W.D. loves the land where he lives — he loves his mountains and he loves his neighbors.

With them, he's struggled over the years against various forms of injustice that have been perpetrated on the region mostly from outside sources.

Of all the forces that have exploited his community — unfair labor practices, environmental destruction, lack of health care, domestic violence, poor schools and general impoverishment — the one that hit him hardest was the most recent outrage: rampant drug abuse.

This specter arrived less than 10

years ago, entering the region in the form of an evil specifically targeting a weak human community.

This weekend's Gospel gives voice to what W.D. and the people of Appalachia have been doing for decades: fighting for God's goodness against forces of darkness that will destroy the body and more.

The pain drug oxycodone was aggressively marketed in Appalachia because of the poverty and high incidence of disability and injury among the populace.

Abuse of the highly-addictive drug spread like wildfire. The result: broken families, broken lives, death.

W.D. told me about his work as a community volunteer. After his last transplant, he explained, "As soon as I got some of my health back, I started working every day with the anti-drug program we started in our schools."

Pressed for details, he said his daughter had become addicted to drugs.

"It's torn our community up," he said. "Those drugs coming in here have really hurt our young people."

W.D. has stood in the courtroom with a crowd of others in testimony against the drug manufacturer. They continue to stand publicly against such victimization.

Theirs is the Gospel message: Don't fear those who can kill the body, but protect the true gift of humanity that God created — the life within you that won't die.

#### Questions:

What have you experienced that poses a threat to the living God among humanity today? How can you stand up to that threat?

#### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light" (Matthew 10:27).

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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 15-21

Sunday (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 19:2-6, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:36-10:8; Monday, 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42; Tuesday, 1 Kings 21:17-29, Matthew 5:43-48; Wednesday, 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; Thursday (St. Romuald), Sirach 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15; Friday, 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20, Matthew 6:19-23; Saturday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga), 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Matthew 6:24-34.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 22-28

Sunday (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33; Monday, 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18, Matthew 7:1-5; Tuesday (The Nativity of John the Baptist), Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; Wednesday, 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20; Thursday, 2 Kings 24:8-17, Matthew 7:21-29; Friday (St. Cyril of Alexandria), 2 Kings 25:1-12, Matthew 8:1-4; Saturday (St. Irenaeus), Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19, Matthew 8:5-17.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 29-JULY 5

Sunday (Sts. Peter and Paul), Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; Monday (Holy Martyrs of Rome), Amos 2:6-10, 13-16, Matthew 8:18-22; Tuesday (Bl. Junipero Serra), Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12, Matthew 8:23-27; Wednesday, Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Matthew 8:28-34; Thursday (St. Thomas), Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; Friday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal), Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13; Saturday (St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria), Amos 9:11-15, Matthew 9:14-17.



# Playing a pope, promoting peace

*In Jerusalem, Jon Voight says Catholic roots fight Hollywood nonsense*

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Academy Award-winning actor Jon Voight said the strong Catholic roots instilled in him by his mother have helped him overlook much of the "nonsense" of Hollywood.

"It is a relief in Hollywood to have some spirituality," Voight told Catholic News Service in mid-May in the lounge of a hotel on the edge of Jerusalem's Old City.

"You are protected from all the nonsense. You keep your spirituality by doing good deeds," he said.

After a period of spiritual-seeking in the mid-1980s, Voight said, he rediscovered the lessons learned as a young child from his mother and became involved in using his celebrity status to help others, including American Indians, drug addicts, the homeless, Vietnam veterans and farmers.

He also has been a spokesman for almost 20 years for Chabad's Children of Chernobyl, a medical relief program for Russian Jewish children still affected by the fallout from the 1986 explosion of the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl, Ukraine.

Voight was in Israel to show his support for the Chernobyl children's program.

The actor, who is known for his role in "Midnight Cowboy" and his Oscar-winning role in "Coming Home," also has portrayed the older Pope John Paul II in a televised miniseries.

He is also the estranged father of actress Angelina Jolie.

In addition to meeting children from Chernobyl who were brought to Israel with the help of the medical relief program, the 69-year-old actor spent a day in the southern Israeli city of Sderot and met with Israeli terrorism victims and their families.

Sderot has been facing daily missile launches from the Gaza Strip.

"It made me so upset" to see the children in Sderot, he said.

"The press does not give it any attention," he said. "The most important thing is: I am here to try to figure out a way to bring recognition to these people who are surrounded by (other) people who want to bring (about) their destruction."

In May, Palestinian militants lobbed hundreds of missiles into southern Israeli communities, and at least two Israelis were killed. Israel retaliated, and a Palestinian mother was killed.

"People in the United States can't even get our minds around it, it is so horrific and despicable: putting your own family's life on the line and using it for gain for your cause," Voight said.

He said he seeks out knowledge about other religions because "holy people are holy people," regardless of their religion.

"I try to surround myself with holy people wherever they come from," he said.

Voight has said Pope John Paul, author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel and the Dalai Lama were the few moral voices that could be counted on.

The actor said he loved playing

Pope John Paul.

"It was great to be able to play someone I loved so much," Voight said. "I was very happy to do it. He was a great man."

Voight spontaneously began imitating the pontiff, quoting from a papal speech at the 2002 peace meeting in Italy, that was left out of the television movie.

"I am ready to acknowledge that Catholics have not always been faithful to this affirmation of faith," Voight said, imitating Pope John Paul's accent and cadence, holding up his hand for emphasis.

The pope, said Voight, fulfilled his personal definition of what it takes to be a great person: someone who brings other people together, no matter what the religion or title, and seeks justice and is a spiritual being.

He said his mother in Yonkers, N.Y., was a true example of that.

"She was a very Catholic woman and she went to Mass more than one time a week, but she never talked about it. We never knew when she went. It was very private," he said.

"I felt guilty thinking she was only taking care of us when she could be running a hospital. She could have been (legendary Israeli Prime Minister) Golda Meir," he said.

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## Catholic student association launches pilgrim news Web site for WYD

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — The Australian Catholic Students Association has kicked off a Web site linking international pilgrims with Australian Catholics as they prepare for World Youth Day in July.

Sydney Cardinal George Pell launched the Web site, [www.ybenedict.org](http://www.ybenedict.org), in late May at a Spanish-themed party in Sydney, where World Youth Day will be held July 15-20.

The Web site offers daily pilgrim news in English and Spanish for the final days leading up to World Youth Day events. It will be translated into Spanish

by Mexican youths who are in Sydney volunteering for the events.

The Web site is a project of Towards 2008, the Australian student and young adult campaign for World Youth Day 2008.

Anthony McCarthy, national coordinator of Towards 2008, said the Web site will allow pilgrims "from Sydney to Santiago, from South Australia to Spain" to follow all the developments leading up to the events.

During the launch party, Cardinal Pell also starred in a short video commercial to promote Carnivale Christi 2008, an event at the University of Sydney, as part of the World Youth Day Youth Festival.

The party followed the "Activ8" promotions May 24, when young people promoted World Youth Day in 50 locations across Sydney.

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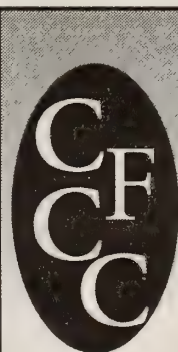
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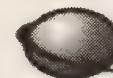
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COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the 2008 graduating class of Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville May 29.

## Bishop McGuinness graduates celebrate commencement

KERNERSVILLE — Ninety-eight graduates of Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville recently received their diplomas.

The commencement ceremony was held at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem May 31. A baccalaureate Mass was celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point May 29.

Earlier that day, the graduating seniors were honored and received awards for their academic accomplishments and recognition of college scholarships.

During commencement, diplomas were conferred by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte; Linda Cherry,

superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness; and Bob Belcher, school admissions director.

In the fall, the graduates will be attending 45 colleges and universities. Two are foreign exchange students who will return to their home countries of France and Germany.

Bishop McGuinness' graduating class received \$4.5 million in combined scholarships.

Graduates and their guests heard remarks by special guest speaker, Tim Rice, CEO of Moses Cone Health System in Greensboro and father of graduate Brian Rice.



COURTESY PHOTO

John Wiesenhan, Charlotte Catholic High School alumni association vice president, presents a scholarship award to Joey Parker during an awards ceremony at the school May 30. The scholarship recognizes a graduating senior for exceptional academic performance, extracurricular involvement and exemplifying a positive image of the school to the church and community.

## Charlotte Catholic graduates receive diplomas

CHARLOTTE — Graduates of Charlotte Catholic High School have said good-bye to high school.

Charlotte Catholic's class of 2008 consisted of 336 students, who received more than \$11 million in combined scholarships and will attend 83 colleges, academies and universities this fall — one as far away as Canada.

One graduate plans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps and one plans to enlist in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

The diplomas were conferred at Cricket Arena in Charlotte May 31 by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; and Jerry Healy, principal.

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Honoring graduates



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are 2008 graduates of Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem during the graduation ceremony at Our Lady of Mercy Church June 4. After the ceremony, family and friends joined the 25 graduates at a reception and awards ceremony.

## Eagles earn wings



COURTESY PHOTO

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Jack Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, is pictured after the end-of-year program featuring Immaculate Heart of Mary School's first class of the Eagles Nest kindergarten readiness class and its teachers Mendy Yarborough and Jennifer Sargeant May 28. The pre-kindergarten class performed songs and skits in front of family, friends and fourth-grade prayer partners.

Certificates of completion were then distributed to the class and a set of gold wings was pinned on each child.

## Proven principal



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Joseph Puceta (left) of St. Michael School in Gastonia receives his distinguished principal award from Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, and Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church, during an end-of-year awards ceremony in the school gymnasium June 6. Principals of the Diocese of Charlotte nominated Puceta for the annual award, presented by the National Catholic Educational Association. Puceta was chosen because, among other criteria, he best exemplifies a clear philosophy of Catholic education and provides effective faith leadership.

"I am deeply honored that I have been nominated (for this award)," said Puceta. "All of our principals are equally devoted to our schools and most especially our students, and they all deserve recognitions and support."

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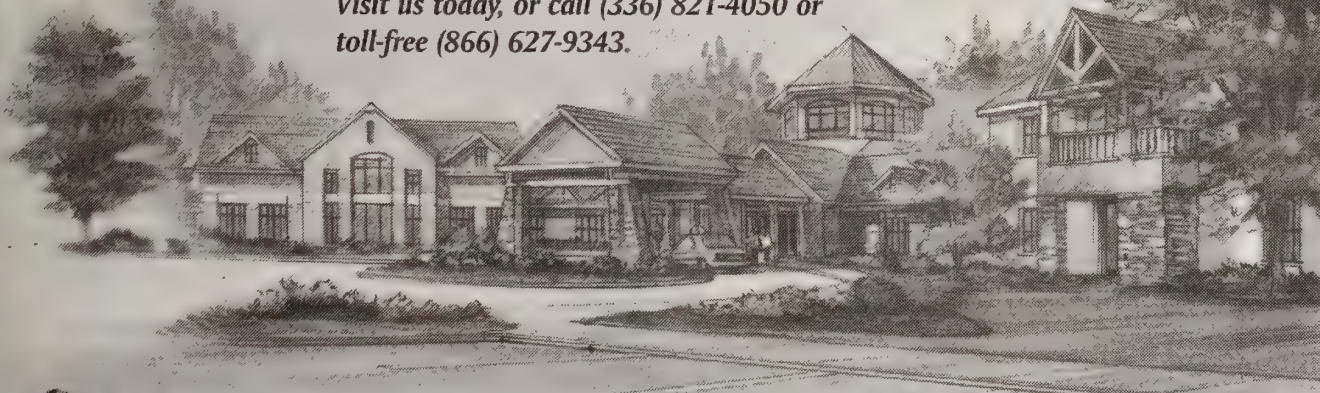
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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Using words to affect attitude while stating mission

*'Word warriors' must keep socio-ethical questions in moral context*

While walking to dinner through a Toronto neighborhood, our group came upon a modern fortress-like building very out of place amidst the older architecture of the 19th-century factory buildings converted to condos and boutiques.

A large sign over the front proclaimed: "Toronto Police Service."

"That's a nice way of saying it," one of our party said, and, perhaps because we had been working with words all day, all agreed that "service" did indeed set a tone and attitude that took some of harshness away from the building and from activities within.

Service. It is a nice way to state a mission.

Several hundred editors and writers meeting in Toronto late last month for the Catholic Media Convention were examining and discussing the tools of their trade. Since words are our stock in trade, it was not so much looking at new products as much as looking at more effective ways to use those tools.

What's new in our trade is that we have the tools to help Catholics carry out their responsibility as citizens.

From several presentations came a common theme that Catholics are obligated to be participants in the public square and therefore must be equipped to effectively present their positions and get along with others where possible.

Catholics as voters must be assisted in discerning — not told — what to do.

One speaker urged us to be "word warriors." Despite the militaristic metaphor, it was good advice to use our tools to frame the debate in the public square to keep the socio-ethical questions in a moral context.

"Give them the words to speak their truth," said Margaret Somerville, an ethicist from Montreal's McGill University.

To be effective requires finding what we have in common with opponents in order to experience belonging to the same moral community, Somerville said.

She also said language has contributed to the "banalization" and "functionalization" of evil. Such language is used to shut down moral intuition.

As an example, Somerville said, the terminology "merciful acts of clinical care" makes more remote what physician-assisted suicide is really all about.

People want to be told what to do but that is not only not possible, it's the lazy way.

Catholics must do the hard work of hearing, analyzing and acting upon the policies of political candidates, for example.

The job of the institutional church is "equipping people to make choices, not to make the choices for them," said Joan

## Consider This

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



Rosenhauer of the U.S. bishops' peace and justice office.

Somerville is concerned that religious people too often use language that alienates. Much better, she said, is to find good secular arguments for our positions since even people of no religion can find the sacred in the secular.

"Find what we have in common to experience belonging to the same moral community," she said.

Peter Lauwers, a Canadian constitutional lawyer, said the church must commit to supporting "accommodative pluralism" that encourages dialogue among different viewpoints and tolerates real diversity.

In fact, he seemed a bit envious of the robust policy debate of the United States, which he finds Canada lacks.

"Policy here is not so much debated as it is alternately announced and denounced," he said.

The Christian responsibility is to actively participate in the political process so individuals must be equipped to be effective.

We learned from the experts and ethicists about the power of words, the importance of clarity and tone, and to look for what unites rather than divides.

We also learned from the simple inscription on a building how to set the tone and thus affect an attitude while stating mission.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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## Tribute to Father Hunt's ministry

As parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, we read the tribute paid to Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt ("Priest remembered for mission work, leading others to Jesus," May 30).

Brief mention was made of Father Hunt's 1990-2004 pastorate at our church and Good Shepherd Mission in King. He was revered for his compassion, sense of humor, diplomacy and his ability to interact with people of all socioeconomic backgrounds, and was highly respected by all the clergy in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

An avid gardener, Father Hunt shared the fruits of his gardening skills with the needy. His ministry was a caring one, of which his many hospital visits gave evidence. Never averse to manual labor, Father Hunt often cut the grass at St. Benedict the Moor Church.

Father Hunt truly was a living saint throughout his life, a model of faith in action. Father Hunt brought hope, understanding and love to all with whom he came in contact. He was a peacemaker and through him, you could see Christ.

— Robin and Bill Ach  
Winston-Salem

## Peace the proper response

This year's edition of the U.S. bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" document lists war and peace as serious moral issues, including the end of nuclear proliferation, the arms trade, torture and the use of unjust war ("Challenged to be faithful citizens," May 23).

For some Catholics, "the love of enemies is the strongest assertion of Jesus." These Catholics, such as Dorothy Day, believe in a radical discipleship that requires a pacifist stance. To Day, for example, it was simple: Jesus made love a commandment, and in doing so calls his disciples to be peacemakers regardless of any other factors.

Most people see it impossible to confront the challenges of current foreign policy issues with such an attitude. But are not Jesus' teachings infamous for being a challenge?

Yes, but we as Christians have hope that with the grace of God we can make it through anything — even facing a harsh world with love and peace.

— Anna Zaros  
Huntersville

## Christ-like conversion

I loved the commentary by Father Eugene Hemrick on evangelization ("Before we go running to convert others," May 16), and how our first greatest witness is through personal holiness, and that we must be converted before we can convert others.

This is very true to a point. Our own conversion and growth in holiness is surely, for most of us, a process to which we apply ourselves over time.

Second to pursuing our own deeper love and devotion to Jesus comes living that out as a real joy about our life, with all its stresses, difficulties and hassles. If God is for us who can be against us?

Through an interior conversion there will be fruit in our individual daily encounters with others and as we seek

## Letters to the Editor

to serve Christ in the world through the church. Undergoing personal conversion is not an isolated enterprise. The more we exercise our faith in the areas that matter most to Christ, the more likely our conversion is to stick and that personal holiness is to reach into the hearts of the lost all around us.

— J. Flemings  
Charlotte

## A way to defend life

In response to Mary Rose Pearl's letter to the editor ("Powerful defense of life," April 18), I extend an invitation to every member of our diocese to take a definitive stance against the intrinsic evil that is abortion. Let us increase our prayers to end this shame, let us stand in front of abortion clinics and pray.

When I joined a group to stand outside a clinic and pray the rosary on Saturday mornings, I did not feel comfortable at first. But then I began to see what a powerful tool such prayer is to fight abortion. Occasionally, I see women who decide to keep their babies. This is a great reward.

As Catholics, we have a great obligation to fight this moral evil that cuts deep into the very fabric of our society. And what better way to do so than to seek the help of our Blessed Mother right where the evil strikes.

— Matthew Thekkekandam  
Greensboro

## 1983 document inadequate for modern warfare

Tony Magliano's column on the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," was woefully inadequate with modern times ("A silver anniversary worth remembering," May 30). The U.S. bishops have been worried about mutually-assured destruction for more than 25 years. It has been proven that ballistic missile defense can hit and destroy a "bullet with a bullet." This concept was recently proven with destruction of a rogue satellite.

A positive aspect with BMDs is there is no "life" in danger. Any incoming ballistic missile can be targeted and destroyed without loss of life on either side. So there is no need for nuclear deterrence, mutually assured destruction, reciprocity or an arms race. Disagreements can be settled by negotiations, resolutions and embargos.

— Kevin Roeten  
Asheville

Tony Magliano has the audacity to judge "most U.S. Catholics" as not having the ability to think for themselves ("A silver anniversary worth remembering," May 30).

Pope John Paul II was right in saying the horrors of modern warfare were unacceptable, but I think he was talking to all the world, not just the United States. Augustine's and Aquinas' interpretation of natural law gives us the right to defend ourselves, and a nuclear deterrence is the only way in this day and age.

— Michael J. McNamara  
Edneyville



# Declaration of Independence: America's safeguard against relativism

*Republic acknowledges a Creator, rights from Creator as self-evident truth*

Pope Benedict XVI recently cautioned Americans against the "dictatorship of relativism." By that he meant to warn us against the modern proposition that contends that conscience is private and personal with only subjective moral conclusions.

This modern proposition is not the view of Catholic theology.

Every moral act consists of three elements: the act itself; why we do it; and the circumstances in which the act is performed — where, when, how, with whom, and its consequences.

It is Catholic teaching that some acts are always wrong apart from the intention of the actor or the circumstances in which the act takes place. Abortion is such an act.

Those who are not Catholic or are unbelievers may say "not so fast."

Many moderns also contend — unlike those Founding Fathers who got together in 1776 — that the natural law is not self-evidently knowable.

The argument for relativism that worries the pope can be insidious. For example, sometimes relativism is asserted to be an aspect of freedom.

Thus, when asked in the abstract whether matters of conscience should be free from coercion (e.g., not subject to legal penalty), many would agree, and some would go so far as to say our

individual moral conclusions must be free from public criticism.

After all, we would have found it disrespectful in the extreme for the national media during Pope Benedict's visit to second-guess the wisdom of his exposition of Catholic thought.

Of course, as soon as religious belief is no longer a proper subject for public discussion, it will be insisted that religion lacks a legitimate basis to claim any authority over laws that will govern the actions of the public — that is, individuals beyond its own believers.

But now consider what that means for the Supreme Court's permissive stance toward abortion or the recent California decision on same-sex marriage.

Here the law is running against the church, but if religion is not a proper subject for debate, does the church really have any basis to complain?

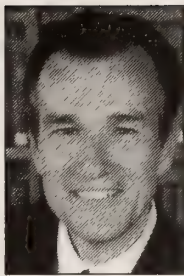
Yes, and here's the real reason to light up the sky in celebration on the 4th of July: By the famous declaration of that day, the American republic acknowledged a Creator and rights flowing from that Creator as self-evident truth.

This acknowledgment is a commitment to natural law, and while the meaning of natural law may be disputed, it at least has to be admitted into the public debate.

In short, if we are true to the

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W.  
KMEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



Declaration of Independence, we will be less likely to come under the sway of any relativistic dictatorship.

Because of religious differences, we cannot insist that Catholic doctrine be directly enacted into law, but the declaration's reference to natural rights from a Creator does illustrate why it is wrong for the Supreme Court to come down on the side of abortion.

Even if the law is incapable of grasping the moral wisdom of the truth of the human person embodied in Catholic teaching, it should be silent — totally silent — on a question such as abortion. Only if there was an overwhelming consensus that natural law specified an answer that should guide everyone's actions should the court have spoken.

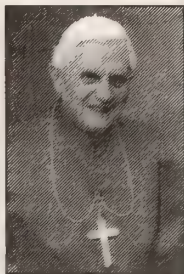
Avoiding the dictatorship of relativism thus means understanding the limited capability for human law to substitute for a well-formed conscience.

It is for this reason too that it is incumbent upon every Catholic to be simultaneously unwavering in the revealed belief that abortion is an intrinsic evil without justification and charitable toward those who by the relativism of the age may be led astray on this question.

## Pope says living exemplary life is key to re-evangelization

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Living an "exemplary life" is key to re-evangelizing lands that have forgotten their Christian roots, Pope Benedict XVI said.

St. Columbanus, a sixth-century Irish monk, was "one of the fathers of Europe" who helped re-evangelize a region that had succumbed to a resurgence of paganism, the pope said during his June 11 general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Through his life and writings, the Irish saint helped shape the monastic culture of the Middle Ages "and thus nourished the Christian roots of Europe," said Pope Benedict.

Pope Benedict said the saint's message to people today also includes "a firm call for conversion and letting go of earthly goods."

His ascetic lifestyle was not an end in itself "but a means for freely opening oneself up to God's love," the pope said.

"Let us remember that we have to return all those gifts that (God) has given us" after death and that earthly possessions are nothing in comparison to the heavenly rewards that await in eternity, he said.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's catechesis, we turn to St. Columban, one of the many Irish monks who contributed to the re-evangelization of Europe in the early Middle Ages.

Columban made his monastic profession in Bangor and was ordained a priest. At the age of 50, he left the monastery to begin missionary work in Europe, where entire regions had lapsed into paganism.

Beginning in Brittany, Columban and his companions established monasteries at Annegray and Luxeuil. These became centers for the spread of the monastic and missionary ideals brought by the monks from their native Ireland.

Columban introduced to Europe the Irish penitential discipline, including private confession. His stern moral teachings led to conflict with the local bishops and the Frankish court, resulting in the exile of the Irish monks, first to the Rhineland and then to Italy.

At Bobbio, where he established a great monastic center, Columban worked for the conversion of the Arian Lombards and the restoration of unity with the bishop of Rome.

It was there that he died, leaving behind not only the example of an austere monastic life, but also a corpus of writings which shaped the monastic culture of the Middle Ages and thus, nourished the Christian roots of Europe.

## Social justice in theory and in action Catholics should practice both charity and justice to others

Quick: Name three papal encyclicals on social justice.

Having trouble? I confess, before I took Christian ethics as part of my graduate studies in pastoral studies, I would have flunked this test, too.

When my classmates and I gave our presentations on Catholic social justice documents at a marathon weekend session, the first presenter wore a jogging suit, hummed the theme to "Rocky" and handed us all bottles of water. This was her way of saying, "We're going to cover some distance here, folks."

And we did. Whew! We started with Pope Leo XIII, who in 1891 expressed the church's concern with the wider world as he commented in "Rerum Novarum" on the horrific working conditions brought about by industrialization.

And we marched — jogged or logged — all the way to Pope John Paul II's "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" ("On Social Concerns").

We heard popes, bishops' synods and the Second Vatican Council talk about the rights of workers, the right to organize and join unions and the right to private property. We heard popes discuss the merits or demerits of capitalism, communism, socialism. We were reminded that our faith commits us to the dignity of all.

We heard popes defend life, not just in warning against abortion but against the death penalty, nuclear arms, the arms race. We heard our church proclaim a preferential option for the poor. We heard Pope John Paul urge us to stand in solidarity with the poor, shoulder to shoulder.

And when the weekend ended, someone put up a mock finish line for us to run through. Funny, but ironic, because we knew we were not at the end but at the beginning: How do we make these teachings part of our lives?

The morning after my marathon weekend, I woke up to find an amazingly coincidental article on the front page of my newspaper. A local nurse, born and raised in Alaska who lives in my neighborhood, has started an orphanage in Ethiopia. She operates a nonprofit from Anchorage, and with \$40,000 this year, made it possible to house and educate 43 children in Ethiopia. According to the Anchorage Daily News, there are more orphans in Ethiopia than there are people in Los Angeles.

How did an ordinary gal decide to do this? Although her religious affiliation wasn't mentioned, she grew up, said the Daily News, in a family committed to acts of charity. As a result, she occasionally volunteered for a medical group that helps refugees in places like

## For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



Uganda or Ethiopia.

Three years ago, volunteering in Ethiopia, she met a man who was letting 43 children — many of them AIDS orphans — live in his yard.

When she returned to Alaska, the man and his desperate wards haunted her sleep. Now she has provided a primitive orphanage, with the only swing in the village, and people around Anchorage are helping her out.

How do I relate this story to our marathon on social justice?

First of all, notice where this gal developed her sense of social obligation. As Catholic parents, we are our children's first teachers, and a sense of social justice must be part of our teaching.

Second, our social justice tradition teaches us it's not enough to just write a check. Charity and justice are not the same thing: One helps the poor; the other brings them into communion with us.

Pope John Paul urged us to stand shoulder to shoulder with the poor. The nurse in Anchorage did that, and it moved her to act, and proved the enormous power of just one person.





CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Christians pray for earthquake victims during a Mass in Miangyang in Sichuan province, China, June 7.

## Praying and picking up the pieces

*Chinese Catholics try to resume normal lives in rural quake-hit areas*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GUANGYUAN, China — Despite fears of continuing aftershocks, Catholics in this quake-hit area of Sichuan province are in good spirits and optimistic about rebuilding their homes soon, said a local priest.

Father Joseph Ye Yong of the Chengdu Diocese has visited all eight churches in Guangyuan parish, traversing mountainous areas about 160 miles northeast of Chengdu on his motorbike, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Chengdu is the provincial capital.

Father Ye, the assistant parish priest, told UCA News June 2 he was relieved to confirm no fatalities among his 20,000 parishioners.

Most of them are farmers who now live in relief tents, their houses having collapsed in the earthquake, but they have returned to work in their terraced fields because the wheat-harvesting season has begun, he said.

Some are still nervous, he added, especially when aftershocks hit.

"The disaster is a cross God has given us, be it rich or poor," the 35-year-old priest said, noting that "all are equal and small when facing the natural disasters."

Many parishioners, he said, are confident of rebuilding their homes if they work hard for a few years, since they expect reconstruction work to mushroom.

"We don't feel alone, because we have received much help and concern from different parts of the country and overseas," said Father Ye.

Seismic waves traveling north-eastward to the neighboring Gansu and Shaanxi provinces caused extensive damage in Guangyuan, about 150 miles from the quake's epicenter in Wenchuan.

As of May 31, local officials were

"The disaster is a cross God has given us, be it rich or poor."

— Father Joseph Ye Yong

reporting that, in the May 12 earthquake, in Guangyuan and the surrounding counties under its administration about 4,500 people died, more than 20,000 people were injured and more than 1 million were displaced.

Most of the Guangyuan parish's eight churches were damaged seriously. Father Ye estimated it would cost about \$577,000 to repair and reinforce all the churches, but he hopes to resume church life as soon as the aftershocks stop.

Father Simon Li Zhigang, administrator of the Chengdu Diocese, told UCA News that more than 20 damaged and flattened churches must be rebuilt.

He said the diocese would make a long-term plan and estimated repairs and reconstruction would cost \$10 million-\$11 million and take up to four years.

Since mid-May, the diocese has received nearly \$30,000 from Catholics across the country toward church reconstruction, he added.

About 30 laypeople of the diocese died in the quake, mainly in the Dujiangyan, Mianzhu and Pengzhou areas, but the injured are hard to count as some were transferred to hospitals in other provinces, Father Li said.

He acknowledged also that the situation of remote churches and Catholic families is still not known, because some roads are still blocked by landslides.

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- \* Italy's famous resort area of Lake Garda where we'll soak up the culture as we relax; a cable car ride up Mt. Baldo will open up amazing views of the Dolomite mountain peaks and surrounding meadows
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And those are just some of the highlights! The price is \$2,999 until June 16 (\$3,099 after that) and includes: air fare from Charlotte, first-class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites, plus most meals. (Airport taxes/fees, tips and travel insurance are extra.)

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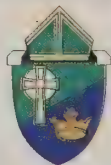
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JUNE 27, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 32

## Perspectives

How to prepare for the  
upcoming Eucharistic  
Congress; dangers of  
same-sex marriages

| PAGES 14-15

## Labor of love

*Jubilant priests  
reflect on years of  
service in diocese*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Eleven priests celebrating jubilee anniversaries were recognized, along with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, during a Mass at the biannual priests' convocation in Asheville June 10.

The jubilees, or special anniversaries, mark 25-, 50-, 55- and 60-year milestones of service to the priesthood.

Celebrating 60 years is Jesuit Father William Lynch; 55 years are Father Joseph Kelleher, Msgr. Thomas Walsh and Benedictine Father Kenneth Geyer; 50 years are Father Richard McCue, Jesuit Father Vincent de Paul Alagia, Benedictine Father David Kissinger, Redemptorist Father Edward Gray and Franciscan Capuchin Father Jude Duffy;

See PRIESTS, page 9

## Pioneers of the permanent diaconate

*First deacons in  
diocese celebrate 25  
years of service*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — A quarter of a century ago, a group of men paved the way for all those to follow in their footsteps of faith.

In May, the first group

See DEACONS, page 6

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## A man on a mission of mercy



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Matthew Harrison of Concord examines the throat of a young patient at a medical clinic in Ghana, Africa. Harrison was part of a team who went on a Helping Hands Medical Mission April 24-May 5.

See MISSION, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A woman refreshes herself Feb. 12 with water that comes from the spring uncovered by St. Bernadette Soubirous at the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

## Mary and the miracles

*Bishop Curlin discusses healing power of  
Lourdes, faith*

BY KATHLEEN HEALY  
SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Two men recently spoke about their personal miracles from Our Lady of Lourdes.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin was the guest speaker at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville June 8.

Invited by Capuchin Father John Aurelia, pastor,

Bishop Curlin's talk was in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France.

Joining the presentation was Ron Garcia, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church and a former member of the Professional Golfer's Association of America. Garcia attributes the healing of his

See LOURDES, page 4

## Grace-filled lives

*Education vicar retires; priests  
celebrate 10-year anniversaries*

| PAGES 7-8

## Culture Watch

*Vatican musical on Mary;  
music of mission churches*

| PAGES 10-11

## Not just for kicks

*Teens build camaraderie  
through soccer camp*

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MAN OF THE CLOTH



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF GOODS OF CONSCIENCE

A model displays a selection from an organic clothing line designed by Father Andrew O'Connor, assistant pastor at Holy Family Church in New York. His new organic clothing line, Goods of Conscience, promotes his church's social teachings by providing healthy labor opportunities for poor workers in Guatemala and the East Bronx section of New York.

## Priest's new fashion line helps Guatemalan village

NEW YORK (CNS) — At first glance, the scene seemed typical. In one of Manhattan's trendiest neighborhoods, models strutted down the aisle amid flashing bulbs, pulsating music and a Chardonnay-sipping crowd. The designer promoting this fashion line was clad in New York-requisite black.

But his collar was square and white.

Father Andrew O'Connor is a Catholic priest. His new organic clothing line, Goods of Conscience, promotes the church's social teachings by providing healthy labor opportunities for poor workers in Guatemala and the East Bronx section of New York.

Hand-woven, technicolor and ruggedly formal, Father O'Connor's creations are made from naturally grown cotton. He uses raw dyes such as yellow wood and black walnut.

"It's really great fabric," said model Camilla Barungi, a finalist in the third season of the hit cable TV series "Project Runway," as she showed off her full-length indigo skirt and short-sleeved beige top. "It may not be silk charmeuse," she added, but the ecofriendly style "is the future of clothes."

Father O'Connor sells the garments from his Bronx workshop by appointment. They aren't cheap; shirts are priced in the \$300 range, and a silk-batted ski jacket goes for \$1,200.

"The construction of the cloth is superb," said David Rose, owner and chief designer of the wholesale clothing company Ascari.

And unlike other fancy duds, these products come packaged with a

heartwarming story.

It starts in the southwestern mountains of Guatemala, in the small Mayan village of Chicacao, where members of the Tzutujil tribe live with no electricity. While on retreat there in 2005, Father O'Connor discovered villagers were struggling to preserve an ancient practice of making cloth from local ingredients from the nearby volcanic lake.

Moved by the craftsmanship that went into weaving — the material for one shirt takes up to 15 days to create — and disheartened by the villagers' meager wages, Father O'Connor hatched a plan to pay the workers to ship some of the fabric to New York.

Using a vacant convent attached to Holy Family Church near the Cross Bronx Expressway, where he is assistant pastor, the priest began employing immigrant seamstresses to make clothes based on his designs.

Soon after, with the help of donations, the Goods of Conscience brand was born.

The clothes "look good, feel good and do good," said Father O'Connor, noting that money shipped back to Guatemala has already helped build portions of a church, school and roadway. "It's a clothing line with a mission."

Father O'Connor said wearers of his clothes become part of a "cultural narrative" by helping preserve an indigenous Mayan craft threatened by mass-produced imports.

"It's a win-win, win-win-win situation," said the Ascari company's Rose.

## Bishops urge G-8 nations to recommit to fight poverty, climate change

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The presidents of bishops' conferences associated with the Group of Eight industrialized nations have urged government leaders to honor their commitments to reduce global poverty and address climate change.

In a letter released less than three weeks before the July 7-9 summit of the Group of Eight leaders in Toyako, Japan, the bishops called upon the presidents of the convening countries to "reaffirm and build upon the substantial commitments" made at summits in 2005 and 2007.

The G-8 includes Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was joined by the presidents of bishops' conferences in other G-8 countries in reminding the leaders of their promise to spend \$50 billion annually on development

assistance — with half going to Africa — by 2010.

"This commitment must be met and additional commitments should be made in the areas of health care, education and humanitarian aid," the bishops wrote.

Citing the current world food crisis, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and a growing concern about malaria and other diseases, the bishops called upon the leaders to consider proposals that would ease access to food in poor communities, increase health and education spending, and "move toward just world trade policies that respect the dignity of the human person in their working life."

Promoting self-help and the empowerment of poor people to be "drivers of their own development" are key to such efforts, the bishops said.

They also urged action to ease the impact of climate change on the world's poor in developed and developing countries.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place Wednesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall of St. Eugene Church. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. For directions, visit [www.steugene.org](http://www.steugene.org) and click on "Getting Here." The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, the Asheville Vicariate and Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office. For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for

priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a Mass for U.S. military personnel on Sunday, July 6, 2008, at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. The Mass and rosary (to be recited at 2:30 p.m.) will be offered for all military personnel who have died and for those who are now serving. All military personnel are invited to come in uniform. Photos of those who have died or who are now serving in the military will be displayed in the cathedral vestibule prior to the Mass. To include your loved one, please mail a photocopy of them with their name and military rank on the back of the picture to Nancy Weber, Office of the Bishop, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 to be received no later than July 2, 2008. (Photocopies of pictures will not be returned)

CHARLOTTE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place Tuesday, July 8, at 1 p.m. in the 1st floor conference room of the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.). Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. Cold drinks and light refreshments will be provided. For directions, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html). This event is sponsored by diocesan Hispanic Ministry and Catholic Social Services; it is free and open to the public. For more information on this topic, please visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

CHARLOTTE — The Special Religious Development Program of St. Matthew Church and the ARC of Mecklenburg County will present a

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope appeals for stability, religious freedom in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed to world leaders to help bring peace, stability and true religious freedom to the Middle East.

"Peace is the only path that will also address the serious problem of the displaced and refugees and stop emigration, especially of Christians, which deeply hurts the Eastern churches," he said in a June 19 speech to representatives of Catholic communities in the Middle East and to Catholic aid agencies that assist them.

During a private audience with some 80 participants of a Vatican meeting of funding agencies for Eastern churches, the pope thanked the representatives for their dedication to offering desperately needed aid and support to Christian communities, especially in the Holy Land, which are "vital for the whole church."

The pope said he shared the pain of Christians in the Holy Land and said he was praying "fervently to be able to visit

in person" and for lasting peace.

The pope urged the church funding agencies, whose umbrella organization is known by its acronym, ROACO, to continue with their support of Iraqi Christians, including the internally displaced and those living in difficult conditions as refugees.

Pope Benedict highlighted the recent developments promoting "dialogue and mutual understanding" in Lebanon and said he hoped this nation would fulfill its "vocation to be for the Middle East and the world a sign of the real possibility for peaceful and constructive coexistence between peoples."

He also said he hoped the June 22 beatification in Lebanon of Capuchin Father Jacques Haddad would "touch the hearts of young Lebanese Christians today" so that they, too, can lead "an evangelical life at the service of the poor" and be faithful witnesses of the Catholic faith in the Arab world.

seminar titled "Transitions: What Happens After High School?" on Saturday June 28, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Banquet Room at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The program will cover topics of interest to parents of children with developmental disabilities, including job coaching, counseling services and estate planning. For more information, call (704) 341-8978.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Blanketeers of Holy Spirit Church* hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. The next workshop will be July 19, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic, A Woman's Choice, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Our *Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place Thursday, July 10, at 10 a.m. in the Tiffin Room at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.catholicretreat.org](http://www.catholicretreat.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, the Smoky Mountain Vicariate and Catholic Social Services. For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

MURPHY — *Scripture study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters* is being offered now through the first week in August at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The classes are held on Mondays, 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Each session includes reflection on Scripture, commentary, daily questions and a brief synopsis. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Vatican official says 'Humanae Vitae' defends freedom of women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although bitterly criticized as burdensome on Catholic couples when it was published in 1968, the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" has ended up defending the freedom of women and the fullness of married love, a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re said in mid-June that the encyclical on married love and procreation, which held that artificial birth control is morally wrong, has defended the value and sacred character of human love against a strictly technological approach.

Cardinal Re, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, said doctrinal analysis and pastoral experience over the last 40 years have shown that "the encyclical, which at first appeared to be restrictive, in reality has actually safeguarded the unity and fullness of conjugal love."

It has also "defended the freedom of women, the responsibility of married couples and the autonomy of people in developing countries," he said.

"The encyclical is not simply a 'no' to contraception but also a defense of the dignity of woman against whatever

might degrade her greatness as a person, wife and mother, reducing her to an object of pleasure," he said.

Cardinal Re made his remarks in a keynote address at the Rome meeting of the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals, which had as its theme this year's 40th anniversary of "Humanae Vitae."

The cardinal said a careful reading of the encyclical today shows that its teaching tries to persuade rather than coerce. The pope's aim was not to force consciences but to enlighten them, he said.

The encyclical's teaching against contraceptives, Cardinal Re said, is framed in the context of a very positive discourse on human love, highlighting the deep connection between human sexuality and the possibility of life.

"The text of the encyclical proposes a sure path that Catholics ought to follow with confidence: a path that is a 'yes' to life, a 'yes' to the Creator," he said.

Its pronouncement on the intrinsically evil character of contraception, the cardinal added, is "a teaching to be held as irreformable."

## Gathered for God



CNS PHOTO BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Catholics gather at Quebec City's Agora amphitheater, the final destination of a eucharistic procession June 19. The procession was part of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**July 2 (9:30 a.m.)**  
Inauguration of Catholic Voices Web site  
Raleigh

**July 6 (3 p.m.)**  
Mass for military personnel  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**July 7 (6 p.m.)**  
Installation of Gabriel Carvajal-Salazar to ministry of acolyte  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**July 12 (5:30 p.m.)**  
Installation of Father Christopher Roux as rector and pastor  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

### ATTENTION READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is currently on its fortnightly printing schedule. Our next issue will be Friday, July 11.

Have a news event or story idea to share? Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

For photos of recent diocesan events, visit [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



# Bishop Curlin discusses healing power of Lourdes

LOURDES, from page 1

illnesses to Lourdes water.

Lourdes attracts more than 6 million pilgrims annually and will host a visit by Pope Benedict XVI in September for its jubilee year, marking the anniversary of the apparitions. The jubilee began last Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and ends this Dec. 8. The apparitions were officially recognized by the Catholic Church in 1862.

Bishop Curlin's dedication to Our Lady of Lourdes began as a child in his grandmother's home.

"She had a plastic shrine of Lourdes, with a blue vigil light," said Bishop Curlin. "We would kneel in front of it and say the rosary."

St. Bernadette was a poor, illiterate 14-year-old when Mary appeared to her in the grotto at Lourdes.

Over the course of five months, St. Bernadette saw Mary 18 times. During one of the apparitions, she instructed St. Bernadette to dig in dirt at the grotto and told her to drink of the water, though no water was there. Once St. Bernadette began to dig, the Lourdes water was revealed, and its healing properties have become renowned over the last 150 years.

Since 1883, the Lourdes Medical Bureau — which gathers medical information for a French doctor appointed by the bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes — has examined the records of more than 7,000 people claiming they were cured after visiting the Lourdes sanctuaries. Of these, 67 cures have been considered miracles.

Garcia believes he has been cured by Lourdes water.

He suffered immensely for 30 years from both asthma and allergies, and despite various medications and treatments, nothing helped. "The doctor said there was something wrong with my immune system," he said.

Then, 14 years ago, Garcia received Lourdes water from a Franciscan in New York and immediately saw a difference in his condition. Garcia was tested by his doctor, who found him to have the lung capacity of a man almost half his age.

"I am a living example of what happened at Lourdes 150 years ago," said Garcia.

Through 16 pilgrimages to Lourdes, Bishop Curlin has witnessed many miracles, but he said the greatest miracles are of the spirit, not the flesh.

"Our Lady told Bernadette, 'I cannot promise you happiness in this world, only in the next,'" said Bishop Curlin.

"So many sick go there and they leave there sick," he said. "What is changed is in their hearts. God moves you where he wants you, if your heart is ready for it. You go where God wants you to go; you say what God wants you to say."

Of the millions who visit Lourdes each year and the thousands who are sick, many are not asking to be cured, said



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin speaks about Our Lady of Lourdes at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville June 8.

Bishop Curlin.

"They are asking, 'Give me the faith to bear this,'" he said. "The message of Lourdes is to take your faith seriously. Lourdes makes you see things through the eyes of Jesus," said Bishop Curlin.

Bishop Curlin recounted his visits with Mother Teresa — both in Washington, D.C. and in the streets of Calcutta, India. Her faith walked through a deep darkness, he said, but her work as Jesus' hands persevered despite that — a characteristic she shared with St. Bernadette.

"In your life, there are moments when you feel momentarily forgotten by God," Bishop Curlin told the audience. "Then there is the dark night, total darkness where you are praying 'Oh, God!' and nothing comes back to you. We have all heard of Mother Teresa's dark night. She said to God, 'I give you my emptiness, my darkness.'"

Witnessing the struggles of those who went to Lourdes on crutches, in wheelchairs, with incurable disease and despair, Bishop Curlin said he found himself moving into the darkness of others to be the hands of Jesus in that holy place.

"Lourdes says, 'Take him off the cross.' Bernadette found Christ when scrubbing floors or pots and pans," said Bishop Curlin. "'Jesus captured my heart,' she said."

Bishop Curlin was diagnosed with cancer 15 years ago and treated successfully. He currently faces a diagnosis of blindness within the next few years due to a hereditary condition. Looking to the miracles of Lourdes, Bishop Curlin said he faces this diagnosis with a calm acceptance.

"The greatest miracle [of Lourdes] is what happens inside you. I'd rather see with my heart than my eyes," he said. "I pray if I lose my sight, don't let me lose the sight of my heart."

"Once you meet Jesus, you see your life more clearly," he said.

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

## Poverty, humility defined life of St. Bernadette Soubirous

LOURDES, France (CNS) — St. Bernadette Soubirous was 14 years old, poor, illiterate and did not know the catechism enough to make her first Communion when Mary appeared to her in the grotto at Lourdes, a small town of about 4,000 people in the Pyrenees Mountains.

St. Bernadette was born Jan. 7, 1844. She was the first of nine children. By 1854, her financially-struggling family gave her up, first as a servant to her aunt, then to help on a farm outside Lourdes.

St. Bernadette returned to Lourdes for catechism classes in 1858. On Feb. 11 that year, St. Bernadette, her sister

and a friend went looking for wood. As she was taking off her stockings and shoes to cross a canal, she heard a gust of wind and saw a young woman dressed in white.

That was the first of 18 Marian apparitions.

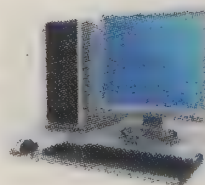
But St. Bernadette shunned the attention that followed. She sought seclusion and entered religious life with the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction at Nevers, France.

She remained hidden from the world and died in 1879 of tuberculosis of the bone. She was canonized in 1933. Her body is incorrupt and venerated at the altar of the Nevers convent.



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## "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform"

presented by

**Mr. Antonio Cube**

**National Director**

**Justice for Immigrants Campaign, US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

**Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 1:00 PM**

1st Floor Conf. Room, Diocesan Pastoral Ctr., 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte

For directions and parking info, go to [www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html).

Cold drinks & light refreshments will be provided (or bring your own lunch)

**Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 7:00 PM**

Social Hall, St. Eugene Catholic Church, 72 Culvern St., Asheville

For directions, go to [www.steugene.org](http://www.steugene.org) and click on the "Getting Here" icon.

**Thursday, July 10, 2008, 10:00 AM**

Tiffin Room, Living Waters Catholic Reflection Ctr., 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley. For directions, go to [www.catholicretreat.org/](http://www.catholicretreat.org/)

**About this presentation...**What principles form the basis of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform? How can the faith community help bring about a society that welcomes newcomers, especially people fleeing poverty and/or seeking reunion with family? As we seek immigration reform, can we concurrently reach the goals of fulfilling our faith's mandate to "welcome the stranger," maintaining our nation's security, and respecting the moral values and civil laws which guide our actions? These questions will be addressed during this presentation. For more information on the "Justice for Immigrants Campaign," visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

Sponsored by: Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Hispanic Ministry, Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates, and Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office and Office of Justice and Peace



# FOCUSing on mission work

Missionary training underway at Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Nearly 200 young adults are training to be Catholic missionaries at Belmont Abbey College this summer.

FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, is training its full-time staff members at the college for five weeks, which started May 31.

Colorado-based FOCUS, a national student outreach organization, has a presence of more than 150 missionaries ministering to thousands of students on 38 college campuses in 18 states.

"FOCUS could have chosen from any number of outstanding colleges to host their summer training this year. The fact that they selected the Abbey represents quite a coup for the college and the whole community," said Rhonda Eason, Belmont Abbey College events coordinator, who headed up a campus-wide team effort to bring FOCUS to Belmont.

The college typically hosts several camps, retreats and other kinds of events during the summer, but the FOCUS

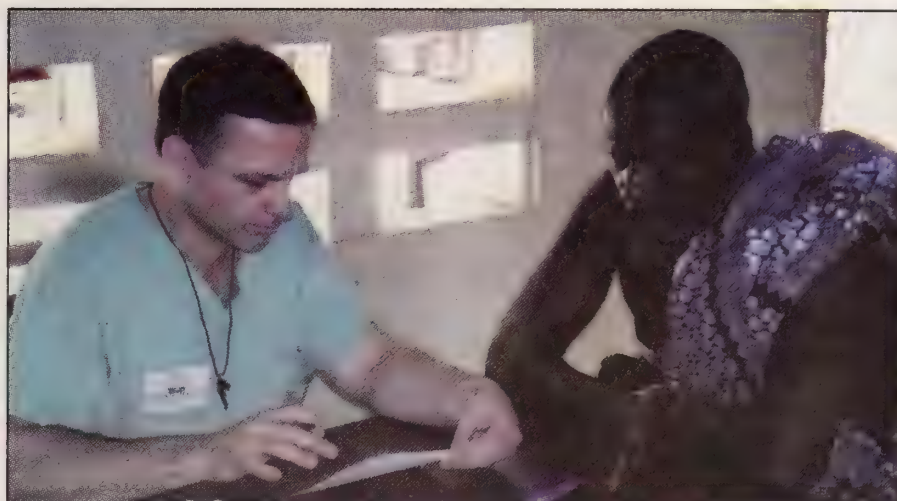
training session will be one of the largest summer events in college history.

"Under the leadership of Abbot Placid Solari and president Dr. Bill Thierfelder, Belmont Abbey College is providing a strong and faithful Catholic presence in the south," said Curtis Martin, FOCUS founder and president.

"We are honored to host our staff training at Belmont Abbey. The Abbey's staff has rolled out the red carpet to welcome us, and the campus will be an excellent setting to encourage prayer, community-building and the formation of our staff," he said.

FOCUS summer training is one part graduate school, one part boot camp and one part retreat. Participants take courses in Scripture, apologetics, discipleship, church teaching and fundraising. Noted Catholic speakers and teachers are involved.

In addition to coursework, the participants take part in daily prayer, daily Mass, reconciliation, practical workshops and team building.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Matthew Harrison of Concord talks to the chief of the Bibiani tribe while on a medical mission in Ghana, Africa April 24-May 5. Harrison, along with several other doctors and volunteers, treated a total of 1,500 patients during the trip.

## Mission trip to Africa provides spiritual renewal for local doctor

MISSION, from page 1

medical mission trip for Harrison, a parishioner of St. James the Greater Church in Concord. He went on his first to Mexico last year.

"One of the reasons I am getting involved in missions is in the hopes that my kids will be able to join me on missions to experience helping others and see how people of other cultures worship," said Harrison.

Harrison and his wife have six children with one on the way.

"My main mission is to my family," he said, "and bringing my children closer to God."

He said he wants his children to realize how blessed they are and to get a glimpse of the poverty-stricken conditions in other parts of the world.

In Ghana, "people live in houses that are basically slabs of concrete on a dirt floor with a tin roof," said Harrison.

"People walk two to five miles to come sit in the sun all day to see a doctor," he said.

"Here (in the United States) people get frustrated when they have to wait 10 minutes," he added.

All Helping Hands Medical Missions are set up to follow a retreat-like format. There is a mission priest on every trip.

A typical day includes morning prayers and meditation, Mass, work at the clinic, night prayers, spiritual counseling and confession.

For the first day or two of the mission, the focus is on evangelization; the missionaries go door-to-door in the community asking for prayers. Next, they make home visits to care for sick people who can't make it to the clinic.

Finally they spend about five days working at the clinic sites.

Harrison's mission took place in Bibiani, a town about 250 miles northwest of Accra, the capital of Ghana.

"I was blessed to be able to run the medical clinics and even got to pitch in on pulling teeth with our dentist," he said.

Other volunteers included an orthopedic surgeon, urologist, pharmacist

and several non-medical professionals.

They treated a total of 1,500 patients during the week.

"We get much more out of it than the people we help," he said. "It really is a spiritual renewal."

"I think it helps the missionaries themselves to know how they can give out what God has given them to share with other people," said Father Simon Assamoah, the mission priest in Bibiani.

When asked how the local people responded to the missionaries, Father Assamoah said, "it was fantastic."

"For them to see a group of about 21 Americans come into the community — into their homes, praying with them, giving out rosaries — it gave a real hope to the people," he said.

Harrison said he was impressed with the vibrant faith of the local people.

"The Sunday Mass is about three hours long," he said.

During the week, local Catholics get up early to go to Mass at 5:30 a.m., before they start work on the farms and in the mines.

The Catholic community in Bibiani is "very dynamic," said Father Assamoah. "It is a growing church and the people are very enthusiastic about their faith."

"They love to spend time with God," he added.

Both Harrison and his medical partner Dr. Daniel Holland, a Catholic, are committed to doing one international medical mission a year.

But even when they're not crossing borders, they strive to maintain that mission objective in their own family clinic by providing medical care with a Christian focus.

Father Assamoah is currently visiting the United States and will be in Charlotte July 31-Aug. 6.

"Dr. Matt (Harrison) has become a contact person" for the Bibiani mission, he said. "He has seen the needs of the people."

"I am coming to thank his community for giving him the opportunity to come to Bibiani," said Father Assamoah.

"The mission was really worthwhile," said Father Assamoah. "It really inspired the faith of the people and I'm sure it also inspired the faith of the missionaries."

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## Summer Bible Institute

Sunday, July 20 – Friday, July 25

**Old Testament: (Sunday night – Thursday night)**

**Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM**

Topic: "The Psalms: Model and Guide To Prayer"

**New Testament: (Monday morning – Friday morning)**

**Margaret Nutting Ralph**

Topic: "And God Said What?"

For further information, contact The Oratory.



# First deacons in diocese celebrate 25 years of service

DEACONS, from page 1

of permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte celebrated their 25th anniversaries of ordination.

The 19 deacons were ordained to the permanent diaconate by then-Bishop Michael J. Begley before more than 2,000 people at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte May 29, 1983.

"We couldn't believe 19 of us drew all those people. It was quite an event," said Deacon Harold Markle, permanent deacon at St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro.

The diaconate is the first of three ranks in ordained ministry. As ordained ministers, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various liturgies of the church.

The permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married. However, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination.

## Enter the trendsetters

In January 1980, Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of Charlotte, announced the formation of the permanent diaconate program in the diocese.

"The more I read (about it), the more excited and interested I became," said Deacon Markle. "My wife said she would support me all the way ...."

Deacon Andy Cilone had been active in the church all his life. "I saw the permanent diaconate as another step in my work in the church ... to learn and educate others about my faith," said Deacon Cilone, permanent deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City. "I talked it over with my wife and kids. We decided that I would apply. If it was meant to be, I'd be chosen."

By September 1980, Deacons Cilone and Markle were among the 21 candidates, under the direction of then-Father (now Msgr.) Anthony Kovacic, to attend the opening weekend program at Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

There, Msgr. Marvin LeFrois, permanent diaconate program director in the Diocese of Savannah, Ga., explained how the program and how deacons were serving in his diocese.

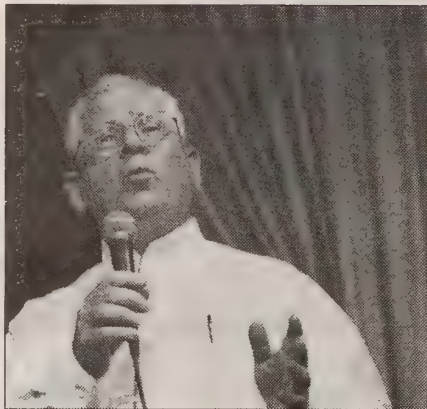
"It was a learning process — we had no role models," said Deacon Markle. "The priests we'd be assisting didn't know what to expect. We didn't know what to expect."

"It was scary at first," said Deacon Cilone. "We referred to ourselves as the guinea pigs."

The three-year program covered four main topics: church history and mission; the sacraments; Scripture; and the liturgy and the deacons' participation at Mass, baptisms, wakes and weddings.

"Going in, we didn't know how awesome the program was going to be," said Deacon Markle.

Of the 21 candidates, 19 proudly processed into Ovens Auditorium to



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Deacon Andy Cilone launches into a ballad during his concert at the Hodges Visitor Center in Forest City May 24, 2002. Deacon Cilone believes his music and diaconate ministry enhance each other. "My ministry is in the church, but so is my singing," he said. "I expand my ministry by singing, and I bring my music outside the church."

be ordained in 1983. Two men were ordained later and went on to become priests for the diocese.

Not all of those first deacons are still alive; in addition, some have retired and some have moved out of the diocese. But a strong camaraderie existed between them then, and still does today.

"It was a special group. We were like a fraternity. We looked out for one another," said Deacon Markle.

"We grew as a family — the 19 men and the wives," said Deacon Cilone.

## Over the years

The first permanent deacons were ordained to serve in their parishes. But then-Bishop William G. Curlin later told them, said Deacon Markle, that "we were ordained not for our parishes, but for where we were needed."

Deacon Markle said being transferred to another parish was a "good experience."

"You go there not as a parishioner but as a deacon. You get to know the people and how you can help," he said.

Deacon Markle's desire to help led him to prison, hospice and AIDS ministries, and most recently to volunteer work at a local hospital — "I keep them in stitches," he said — and in Hispanic ministry. Deacon Markle, who turns 80 in August, is learning Spanish to better assist Hispanic parishioners.

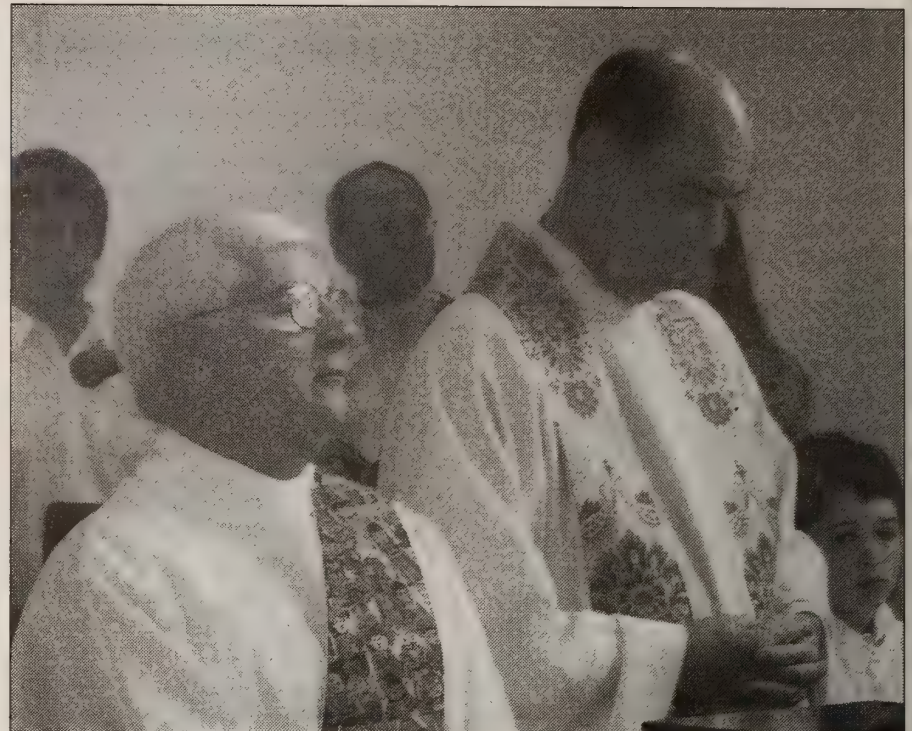
"Our diocese is becoming diversified with many nationalities, primarily Hispanics. We must rise to the occasion and plan for that. We have an obligation to bring the communities together as one."

"The church is growing and the outreach is greater," said Deacon Cilone.

Regarding the growing number of cultures in the diocese, Deacon Cilone said, "Variety is the spice of life. They've added to the flavor of the diocese."

In July 2003, the permanent diaconate expanded its duties considerably by taking over the diocesan prison ministry program. Many deacons visit prisons on a regular basis to offer Communion services, Bible studies and counseling to prisoners.

Deacon Andy Cilone, who has been involved with prison ministry for almost



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Harold Markle (left) and Father John Hanic are pictured during the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro Sept. 21, 2002. As ordained ministers, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various church liturgies.

20 years and has won two volunteer of the year awards for his work, said the inmates' sincere desire for change is what makes prison ministry so attractive to him.

These are "men who, once they are in prison, start leaning towards religion and spirituality. They start reading the Bible," he said.

Deacon Cilone said prison ministry is not designed to convert prisoners to Catholicism, but rather to help them develop their spiritual lives and "let it take them wherever it takes them."

## Deacons today

Candidates now go through approximately six years of diaconate training, including two years in the diocesan lay ministry training program.

The application process is extensive, involving interviewing and collection of credentials and recommendations. After the application process is complete, candidates enter aspirancy, the initial step in the diaconate process.

For about six months, each aspirant prayerfully reflects on his call to the ministry. The academic phase of the training begins soon after for those who are selected to continue. Current minimum requirements for aspirants include being a Catholic for at least five years, being at least 35 years old but not having reached age 65 by 2014.

Candidates must possess a spirit of openness and prayer, humility, faithfulness to the teachings of Jesus and a willingness to spread the Gospel through word and actions, according to Deacon Louis Pais, director of the permanent diaconate for the diocese.

"That is what the concept of the diaconate is all about," he said.

Deacon Markle said he would do it all over again today.

"After a while, it (the permanent diaconate) becomes a part of your life. God has been good to me ... everything that has happened in my life has been with God's help."

Deacon Cilone had similar sentiments. "When I look back, I see God's hand leading me in different directions as needed — everything

seemed to flow together," he said.

For those considering the permanent diaconate, he recommended being "ready to give and apply yourself. Being a deacon is demanding but very rewarding at the same time."

## FIRST DEACONS FOR THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Deacon Andrew Cilone  
Deacon Charles Desautels  
Deacon James Dixon  
Deacon John Doyle  
Deacon John Gallen  
Deacon Joseph Garavaglia  
Deacon Gerald Hickey  
Deacon Charles Knight  
Deacon Joseph Mack Jr.  
Deacon Franklin Manning Sr.  
Deacon Harold Markle  
Deacon Hugo May  
Deacon Dennis O'Madigan  
Deacon Joseph Schumacher  
Deacon Joseph Smith  
Deacon Rudolph Triana  
Deacon Patrick Vallandingham  
Deacon Josef Vandermeer  
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## VOCATIONS

# Completing a chapter in the 'book of life'

*Father Hawker retires from leading, educating the faithful in the Diocese of Charlotte*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

MINT HILL — Hundreds of people flooded the room to celebrate the retirement of their pastor, and their friend.

The retirement party for Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, was held at the church June 7.

Father Hawker, who turned 70 this year, is retiring after 45 years of priestly ministry. He has served St. Luke Church as pastor since 2001, and the Diocese of Charlotte as vicar of education since 1995.

"My assignment in the Diocese of Charlotte has been a grace-filled experience," said Father Hawker.

"During the past 13 years, I've been enriched greatly by the quality of faith exemplified by the priests, religious and laity of the diocese," he said. "It's been a privilege and a pleasure to serve in this area of the Lord's vineyard."

Ordained in the Archdiocese of Boston in February 1963, his first parish assignment was at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church in Waltham, Mass.

"My pastor said, 'Father, you're in

charge of the CCD,'" he recalled.

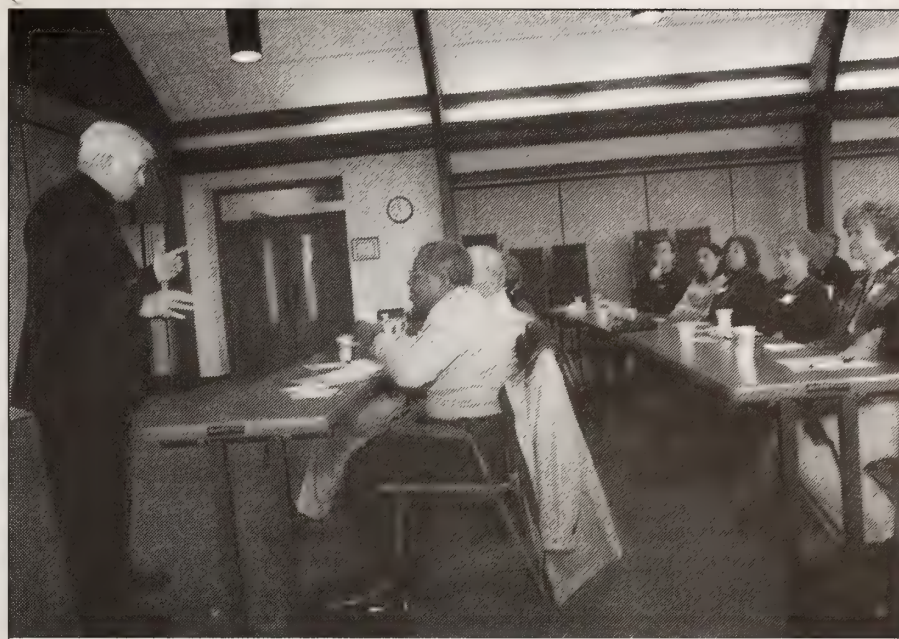
The parish's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, or religious education, classes consisted of 1,800 elementary school and 500 high school students at the time.

"That was a baptism of fire," said Father Hawker. "But my love for catechetics has grown since then."

Father Hawker received master's degrees in psychology and religious education, and a master of divinity degree in theology. He served in the Archdiocese of Boston in a variety of ministries, including parish work, assistant headmaster of Cardinal Cushing Academy in West Newbury and director of religious education for the archdiocese.

He also held memberships on the archdiocese's liturgical commission, justice and peace commission, lay ministry commission and the Catholic-Jewish Committee. He was a lecturer of catechetics and homiletics at St. John's Seminary and catechetics at Pope John XXIII Seminary in Boston.

His studies and experience with religious education led him to foster



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Father James Hawker speaks at a parish catechetical leaders' retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Jan. 13, 2005.

Catholicism beyond the archdiocese. In the 1980s, he served as president of the National Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) National Conference of Directors of Religious Education and Chief Administrators of Catholic Education committees.

He also served as a member of the board of directors for the NCEA. From 1990 to 1995, he served as a consultant to the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy in the area of catechetics.

"Every continent and many countries were represented there, and I was privileged to represent the United States during the congregation's annual gatherings," said Father Hawker.

"Two areas that we considered were the forthcoming catechism of the Catholic Church and adult catechetics," he said. "It was during that time that then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger met with and addressed us."

Father Hawker next put his gift for catechetics to use when he transferred at then-Bishop William G. Curlin's request to the Diocese of Charlotte to become the vicar for education in 1995.

"A vicar for education is delegated by the bishop to oversee the educational mission of the diocese, its parishes and schools," said Father Hawker. "He is responsible for ensuring that the educational vision of the bishop is implemented."

In addition to his vicar duties, Father Hawker returned to parish work. He said it has been a joy to serve as pastor of St. Luke Church for the last seven years.

"I've been impressed deeply by the generosity of spirit of the parishioners," he said. "They've been and are extremely attentive and responsive to the social Gospel whereby they, like all Christians, are called to manifest the care and compassion of Jesus himself toward the poor, needy and outcast."

Upon his retirement in July, Father Hawker will return to the Archdiocese of Boston, where he actively served for 32 years.

"I am looking forward to being of service to the incarcerated and those who are victims of addiction," he said. "Naturally, I shall serve in whatever manner that is helpful to parishes in need of assistance."

Father Hawker said he is grateful for the time he spent in North Carolina.

"To Bishop Curlin who invited me here to assist in the educational mission of the diocese, and to the priests of the diocese for their exemplary spirit of welcome and fraternity, I express deep gratitude," he said.

"In my view, the book of life is a compilation of chapters. As I return to Boston, the chapter related to the Diocese of Charlotte and the parish of St. Luke will be closed," he said. "However, its influence will live on in my life — for that, I am very grateful, as I continue to be bound to this community in the name of Jesus Christ."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).



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# With the grace of God

## Four priests celebrate 10 years of service

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — "I pray every day: Lord, if you choose me, let me be a good, holy, simple, humble priest," said Father Peter Pham, priest in residence at St. Joseph Church in Charlotte.

"Let me reflect the image of God, the image of Christ. Let me be a good priest," he said.

Father Pham is one of four priests in the Diocese of Charlotte who celebrated the 10th anniversary of their priestly ordinations June 6.

The 1998 ordination of Father Pham, Father Dean Cesa, Father Christopher Davis and Father Matthew Leonard marked their vows to undertake journeys of service to God through the vocation of the priesthood.

"It has gone so fast," noted Father Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheville.

Reflecting on the last 10 years, the priests shared a sense of humility and commitment to follow God's call to serve his people.

"At the beginning, it is like a marriage, a beautiful honeymoon," said Father Pham.

The reality of a priest's daily work within a parish also reflects a marriage, requiring the support of both the priest and the parish to establish a solid foundation and life.

As with any vocation, there are often frustrations that require daily recommitment to their vows. With prayer and dedication, they continue to serve, facing challenges and overcoming hurdles with a willingness to give of themselves every day.

"It is a beautiful and scary thing," said Father Leonard, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir, regarding the dual nature of the priesthood. "At one point you give yourself over to the providence of God and say, 'Do with me what you will,' and you trust."

Heading the call to serve requires prayer and also a love of serving. For some the gifts of being a priest come through what they give to others.

"As a priest, I have the ability to reach out to different cultures ... but there is much more to it," said Father Davis.

"My hope is to get closer to God, to bring people into the love and knowledge of God," he said. "In that is the salvation

of souls — mine and those of the people I serve."

"The greatest gift is to be able to know Christ better by serving people," said Father Leonard. "Do ministry, do what's right in front of you right now. If you think about being a priest, do whatever you can find in the church to serve others, because that's what a priest does, whatever needs to be done."

"Always make primary what God wants you to do," said Father Cesa, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, in regard to following a priestly vocation.

"We should focus on the two sacraments we repeat — Eucharist and reconciliation. The Eucharist is the center of all we do," he said.

"Pope Benedict XVI tells us it's not the love you receive, but the love you give that matters," said Father Pham. "We need to be ready to die for the love of Christ."

In his vocation, Father Pham, a native of Vietnam, said he receives support from his flock and his pastor, Father Peter Tan Van Le, who recently celebrated his 35th anniversary to the priesthood.

"The grace of God is always with me, in good and bad times," said Father Pham. "In 10 years, you go through this and that. It's not an easy path, but God loves me so much."

"He walks with me and he carries me through. If you think you are called, just do it! Go with great confidence," he said.

The priests aspire to continue walking with God and ministering to their people.

"I hope to continue serving the people, serving God," said Father Cesa.

"I am glad I'm a priest," said Father Leonard. In reflecting on the last 10 years, he added, "It makes me look forward to the next 20 and 30 years."

"I recently returned from a retreat and at the end of it I found myself thinking, 'I want to go home. I want to go home to my parish and my parishioners,'" said Father Davis.

"If God had given me the chance to do it all over again," he said, "I wouldn't change a thing."



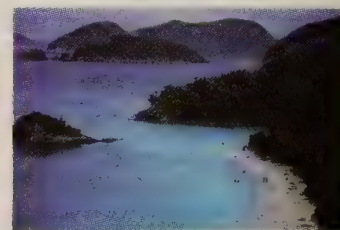
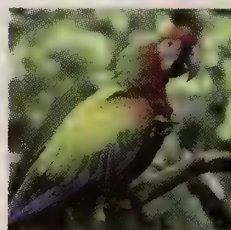
ARCHIVE PHOTO BY MARY MARSHALL

Father Dean Cesa (center) is joined by Father Manuel Sundaram and prayer group members on the altar for the consecration during the 35th anniversary celebration of the charismatic renewal at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 9, 2002.

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# Jubilarian priests reflect on years of service

PRIESTS, from page 1

and 25 years are Father John Hanic and Father John Schneider.

Over the years, these men have served as witnesses to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte through the example of their lives and their faith. The Catholic News & Herald spoke with a few of the priests and asked them to reflect on their ministries and share some of their insights in the priesthood, the diocese and living the faith. Here is what they had to say.

**What have you enjoyed most about being a priest?**

"I always enjoyed the experience of going to a new part of North Carolina. And then of course working with the people. Because of our nature and being spread over a large area, we got to meet a lot of people from all parts of the state."

—Msgr. Thomas Walsh, a 55-year jubilarian

"I think the most enriching ministry of the priesthood is the ministry to the sick and suffering — working with the people especially

when suffering by (approaching) death."

—Father Joseph Kelleher, a 55-year jubilarian

"The Mass and the sacramental ministry."

—Father Richard McCue, a 50-year jubilarian

"I've always liked people and I thank God because it means a lot to make people feel welcome."

—Jesuit Father Vincent de Paul Alagia, a 50-year jubilarian

"Working with God's people."

—Father John Schneider, 25-year jubilarian and pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville

**How has the diocese changed?**

"My very first parish was in Wadesboro. At that point when I went there in 1957, there were just 40 children and 28 adults, and of course that has changed so much. North Carolina has become much more urban than it was. (Back then) they told me to be careful driving on the highway because there might be a mule on the road. I actually missed a hog once."

—Msgr. Walsh



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Father John Hanic and Father John Schneider are pictured as transitional deacons during a gathering in Maggie Valley July 20, 1982. The two men were ordained as priests in 1983.

"Well there were a lot of the liturgical changes as a result of the Second Vatican Council, (particularly) increased participation of lay men and women in the work of the church."

—Father McCue

**What are you doing now?**

"I love the work and I love the kids. I think the ministry to the high school is just the presence to be there for them. It's a terrific ministry. I tell them now, 'Even after I'm gone I'll still be looking out for you. So be careful, if you're up to something I may come back and haunt you, and boy would I scare you.'"

—Father Joseph Kelleher, chaplain to Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville

"I'm a senior priest — which means that I help. I promised Bishop (William G.) Curlin, I said, 'Bishop, I know they need help.' So that's what I do."

—Msgr. Walsh, on returning to his hometown of Allegany, N.Y. to be closer to his siblings and help out in the diocese there

"I'm doing like so many other retired priests — assisting other priests in various areas and helping with the weekend Masses. Last weekend I said four Masses at one of the local parishes. I'm glad to do it."

—Father McCue, currently resides in Exeter, N.H.

"Father Joe (Sobierajski) wanted me to come here because he was interested in having the parish involved in retreat ministry. So we developed a team to give retreats and spiritual direction."

—Father Alagia, in residence at St. Peter Church in Charlotte

**What advice would you give to new priests or seminarians who are just starting out in their ministries?**

"I would say never neglect your prayer life. That's the thing that keeps us going. Prayer is the most important thing."

—Father Kelleher

"Listen to God's people. Be of service to God's people."

—Father Schneider

"I'd say first of all to thank God for the gift of the priesthood and for being chosen from others to carry out the ministry of Christ in this unique way."

—Father McCue

"He (a seminarian) has to be able to doubt and accept doubt, and to question and be willing to search."

—Father Alagia

"I would say just be open to new experiences."

—Msgr. Walsh

Contributing to this article was Thom Callahan.

## Join Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and others for a Pilgrimage to Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine near Quebec City in Canada

October 8 - 13th

The year 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the first chapel erected on the site of the Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America.

This special pilgrimage will leave Charlotte Wednesday, October 8, and fly to Montreal where the first two days will be spent touring that fascinating city and its beautiful churches, including the Oratory of St. Joseph. The group will then travel to Quebec City for the special weekend celebrations honoring the 350th anniversary of the historical chapel. On October 13, the group will return to Montreal and fly back to Charlotte.

The cost is \$2,030 per person (double occupancy) and includes roundtrip airfare from Charlotte, hotels and hotel taxes, breakfasts, dinners, land transportation, all transfers and baggage handling at hotels.

Registration deadline is: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st.

Check our web page at [www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html](http://www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html) for the application or call the St. Ann Church office at

704-523-4641 for more information.

(This is a privately-organized tour, not sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte.)



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Vatican hosts world premiere of musical about life of Mary

*Show reminds people Mary is 'woman of our times,' says archbishop*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has thrown its support behind an Italian musical highlighting the life of Mary.

The Vatican also hosted the show's world premiere in the Paul VI audience hall June 17.

"Mary of Nazareth: A Story That Continues" was sponsored by the pontifical councils for Culture and for Social Communications; the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone; the Italian Senate; and Rome's city and regional governments.

Some 40 actors, 12 dancers and a 60-piece orchestra brought the story of "the most important woman in the history of humanity" to the stage.

At a June 10 press conference at the Vatican, Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said he was pleased the council was sponsoring a musical dedicated to Mary.

He said while the council does not see its role as a promoter of musicals, this project stood out.

In a world that has lost so many values, people are still "nostalgic" and looking for sense and meaning in their lives, he said.

This show reminds people that Mary "is a woman of our times" who once again "presents (and) communicates Christ the lord to mankind today," he said.

"And that is why with pleasure the pontifical council was pleased to see this show and with pleasure gives its sponsorship," he said.

No commitments have been made about where the show will play now that it has premiered at the Vatican.

"We have made contacts with people in South America, Europe, Italy and the Middle East," said Sergio Pellerey, head of the show's promotional agency, AIRAM.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 6, 2008

July 6, Fourteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Zechariah 9:9-10  
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
- 2) Romans 8:9, 11-13  
Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

## Burdens, humility can help reveal God's call

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was discussing God's attitude toward sin and forgiveness with two teenagers preparing for the sacraments. Kim struggled with the idea that God could forgive someone who had committed a sin such as a crime that caused enormous pain to the victim.

It was a normal human response. But Jack thought otherwise.

"I've found out that it's not as hard to forgive as you might think," he said. "I've had people do some bad things to me that have really hurt me. But I saw that the bad stuff is really about them, not me, and not forgiving only makes it worse."

"That was what Jesus showed in the resurrection, right? That what happens here that hurts you goes away, and what's important is loving people and forgiving them like he did, so you can go to heaven with him."

I was amazed at the depth of Jack's

understanding — and the certainty of his faith. Although I'd worked with Kim and Jack for a year, I thought their growth in formation was meager because we met infrequently. Besides, Jack was very restless, and it was difficult to tell if he actually was comprehending the fundamentals of Catholic faith I'd been trying to teach him.

I knew that Jack had never been taught even the basics of any faith. Also, he had a strikingly difficult life in his 17 years. So I was astounded in this session to hear him speaking about the faith with great knowledge and conviction.

Jack had been faithfully attending Mass with his teenage friend who had invited him to church. He'd told me about conversations he'd had with his parents about Catholicism.

But I realized the depth of spirituality and understanding in this young man was more than what had been placed there in any of us.

No, while some of us, though given faith at an early age, struggle to understand and trust God, Jack is one of the "liti ones" to whom God will reveal himself as Jesus says in this week's Gospel. As for Jack, suffering much in his young life, faith wasn't hard. In Jesus he has found the yoke easy and the burden light.

### Questions:

What burdens and difficulties in your own life can help you see some meaning in the life to which Jesus calls you? What "hidden things" have God revealed to you in your moments of humility?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 29-JULY 5

Sunday (Sts. Peter and Paul), Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; Monday (Holy Martyrs of Rome), Amos 2:6-10, 13-16, Matthew 8:18-22; Tuesday (Bl. Junipero Serra), Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12, Matthew 8:23-27; Wednesday, Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Matthew 8:28-34; Thursday (St. Thomas), Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; Friday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal), Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13; Saturday (St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria), Amos 9:11-15, Matthew 9:14-17.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 6-12

Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30; Monday, Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22, Matthew 9:18-26; Tuesday, Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:32-38; Wednesday (St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions), Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Matthew 10:1-7; Thursday, Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, Matthew 10:7-15; Friday (St. Benedict), Hosea 14:2-10, Matthew 10:16-23; Saturday, Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 10:24-33.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 13-19

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23; Monday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha), Isaiah 1:10-17, Matthew 10:34-11:1; Tuesday (St. Bonaventure), Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24; Wednesday (Our Lady of Mount Carmel), Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27; Thursday, Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-30; Friday (St. Camillus de Lellis), Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8, Isaiah 38:10-12, 16, Matthew 12:1-8; Saturday, Micah 2:1-5, Matthew 12:14-21.



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.  
Department of Philosophy, Fordham U.

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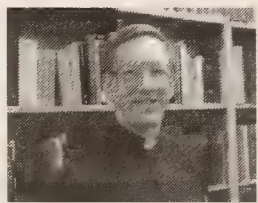
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Saturday, August 2, 10 AM – 11:30 AM, Holy Family Catholic Church Family Center  
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For directions, go to [www.holyfamilyclemmons.com/map.html](http://www.holyfamilyclemmons.com/map.html)



Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. is a priest of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from St. Louis U. and a M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has received both the Graduate Student Faculty of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Student Faculty of the Year Award from Fordham University.

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# 'Mark on the world'

*Musicologists find gems in scores found in Bolivian mission churches*

BY BARBARA J. FRASER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CONCEPCION, Bolivia — While the painstakingly restored churches in eastern Bolivia may be the crown jewels of South America's colonial Jesuit missions, the real gems were found in several decrepit boxes after nearly two centuries of neglect.

In 1972, while he was beginning restoration of the early missions, Swiss architect Hans Roth found boxes and piles of music in the churches in San Rafael and Santa Ana de Velasco. Some were fragments, while others were nearly complete scores.

The music was found "in an

unfortunate state," said Javier Mendoza, director of the museum and music archive in Concepcion. Nevertheless, he said, "the interesting thing is that the people kept it."

The scores connected singers in the communities with the Jesuit missionaries who brought classical music to this region of Bolivia, called the Chiquitania, in the late 1600s.

Photographs from the 1950s show members of choirs in the churches holding the scores, even though they did not know how to read music, Mendoza said.

Roth salvaged about 5,000 sheets of music and took them to the larger town of

Concepcion, where musicologists could study and catalog them. Experts then began the painstaking task of preserving the manuscripts.

The collection "is the repository of colonial music in the Americas and the only one containing music by Dominico Zipoli, by far the most important European composer to emigrate to the Americas before the 19th century," said Julieta Alvarado, a Panamanian-born harpsichordist and music professor at Southwest Minnesota State University.

The more than 200 pieces of keyboard music found in San Rafael comprise "the largest colonial keyboard music collection to date in the entire continent,"

said Alvarado, who spent several years studying the music.

Because the pages were dirty and wrinkled, before restoration work could start they had to be dampened and flattened, then dried and cleaned. The actual restoration began last year with funding provided by the Spanish government.

In some cases, the sheets must be washed using a special technique, Mendoza said. In others, holes must be filled.

"We do not fill in missing parts" of the music, he said. "We are not reinterpreting" the pieces. "That is the job of musicologists."

The restorers' task is to stabilize and preserve the music so that musicologists can study it and musicians can perform it. The scores have been photocopied so that researchers do not handle the originals. The restoration techniques were chosen carefully.

Mendoza estimates that the restoration will cost about \$200,000 in all. A special, climate-controlled room has been designed for the archive, and plans include better security and fire-suppression systems.

Future plans also include capitalizing on the experience the restorers have gained and offering restoration services as a way of generating revenue to support the archive and museum, he said.

Mendoza's dream is to publish a book of the musical scores "so they reach more people."

With the restoration of the archive, the music that flourished in the Jesuit missions in the late 1600s and early 1700s and remained hidden for nearly two centuries after the Jesuits were expelled from the Spanish colonies has come to light again.

The baroque music festival held every two years in the Chiquitania is a showcase for the missions, the music that was played and composed there, and young local musicians who have forged a link with their ancestors through the ancient melodies.

"With music," Mendoza said, the Chiquitania "has left its mark on the world."



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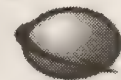
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## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

*For the month of June, here are some historical facts about St. Peter Church, the first Catholic church in Charlotte.*



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Pictured is the interior of St. Peter Church in Charlotte prior to 1950.

### Important Early Dates

- March 17, 1851: Father Jeremiah O'Connell laid the cornerstone of the original St. Peter Church.
- June 29, 1852: On the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul, Bishop Ignatius Reynolds, the second bishop of Charleston, S.C., dedicated the first St. Peter Church. It was described as "a brick church of a very neat style of architecture, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide with arched ceilings." Also, it had "a picket fence and a pot-belly stove that glowed in winter." It was located on the same lot as the present-day St. Peter Church, on Tryon Street at First Street.
- July 5, 1873: The first resident priest in Charlotte, Father J. B. Hands, arrived at St. Peter Church.
- July 2, 1882: Bishop H.P. Northrop of Charleston ordained Benedictine Father Daniel Hefti to priesthood in St. Peter Church — this was the first time a priest was ordained in Charlotte and perhaps the first occurrence in all of North Carolina.
- Sept. 3, 1893: Abbott-Bishop Leo Haid of Belmont laid the cornerstone for the new (present-day) St. Peter Church. Benedictine Father Francis Meyer, pastor, assisted Abbott-Bishop Haid.
- Dec. 24, 1893: Abbott-Bishop Haid dedicated the newly-built St. Peter Church.

### Historical Facts

— The need for a larger church and damage to the original church from two munitions explosions necessitated the construction of a new building.

— St. Katherine Drexel contributed money to build the

present St. Peter Church.

— A typical Sunday schedule in 1880 at St. Peter Church: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Mass, 10:30 a.m.; catechism, 4:30 p.m.; vespers, 5 p.m.

### Quotes

Missionary priest and author Father Jeremiah O'Connell (1821-1894) served many of the early missions of western North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. The following excerpts are quoted from his book, "Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia."

— The first St. Peter Church: "The church lot is located at this time almost in the heart of the city; [in 1852] it lay at the extreme [southern] limits of the town. It comprises two acres. I was offered the entire vacant square, a bare old field, for the sum of five hundred dollars. ... The enterprise [land and construction of the original St. Peter] cost about one thousand dollars."

— Dedication of the original St. Peter Church: "The ceremony was performed by Bishop Reynolds, in presence of a large congregation, chiefly non-Catholics. He delivered an able discourse on the 'Real Presence.' I said the Mass, the first of many thousands offered in the church; it was served by the bishop. On the same occasion he administered confirmation ..."

— Catholics in the Charlotte area: "At that time [1852] there were scarcely one hundred adult Catholics in Charlotte and the adjoining missions. They were poor people, but virtuous, and full of zeal for religion. They all contributed according to their ability."

## SNAP holds press conference at Pastoral Center

CHARLOTTE — Three members of SNAP, the Survivors' Network of those Abused by Priests, recently held a press conference on the lawn of the diocesan Pastoral Center.

David Clohessy, SNAP national director, organized the June 11 press conference to announce his group's intentions to deliver a letter to Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Neither the bishop nor any other diocesan official was made aware of the press conference prior to its taking place. Bishop Jugis was out of town and en route to the U.S. bishops' spring general assembly in Orlando, Fla., June 12-14.

The letter, which was hand-delivered to a diocesan representative, asked

Bishop Jugis to visit parishes where alleged or proven child sexual abusers worked and urge anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse crimes to contact law enforcement.

The diocesan policy on sexual misconduct by church personnel requires the contacting of civil authorities whenever a credible allegation of misconduct has been made.

Three independent audits have found the Diocese of Charlotte in full compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

A copy of the diocesan sexual misconduct policy is available online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

### PART-TIME MUSIC POSITIONS, Charlotte, NC

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**Cantor:** Able to read music, prepare individually and take direction; able to work a cappella (solo) & with pitch pipe, proficient soloist, available to participate in SATB choir; familiar with Latin. Also helpful: familiar with Spanish.

**Organist:** Experienced accompanist, able to read music and prepare individually, able to take direction. Also helpful: piano skills, familiarity with Latin and Spanish.

**Contact:** Terese Rowe @ 704-599-5725 (home phone)

### Full Time Position Director or Coordinator of Religious Education

St. John Neumann Catholic Church — Charlotte, NC

Responsibilities include faith formation for preschool through adult, sacramental preparation, program planning and implementation, supervision of Religious Education Staff, recruitment and training of volunteers, student placement, and meeting the needs of the parish and program participants.

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Joanne Klein [joanne.klein@realestateideas.net](mailto:joanne.klein@realestateideas.net) FAX: 704-821-1146 OR

Connie Milligan [connie@4sjnc.org](mailto:connie@4sjnc.org) FAX: 704-536-3147

### Therapist/Counselor — Catholic Social Services Winston-Salem, NC

Non-profit agency responsible for providing therapeutic individual and family counseling to youth and families. Must have a master's degree in Social Work, Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy. Fluency in Spanish and English strongly preferred. Must be licensed or eligible. Mail resumes to: Catholic Social Services, Host Homes Program, Attn: Dewey Haley, P. O. Box 20185, Winston-Salem, NC 27120-0185, or email: [dvhaley@charlottediocese.org](mailto:dvhaley@charlottediocese.org).

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The Eucharistic Congress: The Eucharist helps us proclaim Christ

In a little more than three months from now, we will celebrate our diocesan Eucharistic Congress.

The Eucharistic Congress is an opportunity for the entire diocese to come together each year to celebrate our faith and our love for the Eucharistic Lord. The Eucharist brings us together as one body in Christ. It is the source and the summit of our Christian life, as well as the heart of our Christian life.

Our first Eucharistic Congress was held in 2005 to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist. Since then, we have come together in joy each year to celebrate a Eucharistic Congress.

The Eucharistic Congress to be held in Charlotte this fall — on Friday, Oct. 3 and Saturday, Oct. 4 — is our fourth annual congress. Everyone is invited to attend!

I hope you have already reserved these dates on your calendar, and that you are planning to be present for this celebration of faith.

### The theme for the congress

This year's congress occurs during the special holy year announced by Pope Benedict XVI to honor the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. The theme for the Eucharistic Congress is taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians (1:28): "It is Christ Whom We Proclaim."

St. Paul's sole passion was to proclaim Christ. In our Eucharistic Congress, it is Christ whom we proclaim in our eucharistic procession through the streets of Charlotte, in our holy hour of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in the celebration of the Mass, in the talks by our speakers and in our sacred music concert.

The entire Eucharistic Congress from beginning to end is a proclamation of Christ. The theme we have chosen, therefore, not only honors St. Paul and his apostolic mission, but also appropriately expresses the spirit of the Eucharistic Congress — to proclaim Christ.

### The Eucharist helps us proclaim Christ

How? In his apostolic exhortation, "Sacramentum Caritatis," Pope Benedict wrote that the Eucharist is not only a mystery to be believed and celebrated, but also a mystery to be lived and proclaimed in our daily lives (nn. 70-93).

The Eucharist transforms us. We are changed more and more into the image and likeness of Christ by our participation in the eucharistic celebration, and especially by receiving holy Communion.

Through our participation in the Mass, the life of Christ matures in us, so that our entire life becomes a proclamation of Christ.

The Holy Father wrote of how the

### From the Bishop

BISHOP  
PETER J. JUGIS  
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE



Eucharist transforms us to become a living proclamation of Christ and his love: "By sharing in the sacrifice of the Cross, the Christian partakes of Christ's self-giving love and is equipped and committed to live this same charity in all his thoughts and deeds" (n. 82).

"The love that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with all. What the world needs is God's love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him .... We too must be able to tell our brothers and sisters with conviction: 'That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us'" (1 Jn 1: 3).

"Truly, nothing is more beautiful than to know Christ and to make him known to others" (n. 84).

Christ, whose life is constantly nourished in us by the Eucharist, is proclaimed and made known to others by our Christian love.

Cardinal Christian Tumi of Cameroon spoke at the recent International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec about the radical love that the Eucharist makes us capable of living.

The cardinal reminded us that the Eucharist must lead us to a greater love for our brothers and sisters, to give our lives along with all the risks that that entails.

In this way, the Eucharist is terribly dangerous: to have a passion for love is always dangerous. The eucharistic man is a dangerous man, burning with the fire of the Spirit, whose only concern is to spread the fire.

He is a man of daring and confrontation, a man of radicalism and the absolute. There is no question of compromise. He must commit himself to act for God and for man.

### Many ways to proclaim Christ

Christ, whose presence is nourished in us through the Eucharist, can be made present to others in many different ways through our Christian living.

Pope Benedict wrote that "the first and fundamental mission that we receive from the sacred mysteries we celebrate is that of bearing witness by our lives ....

## Perseverance: The will to bear discomfort

*God becomes our strength, joy in a hidden but powerful way*

A woman from Western Canada wrote to me about hitting bottom, feeling overwhelmed with life's burdens.

Her demanding husband was becoming more and more abusive and her children more and more disrespectful.

She lost her joy and didn't know how to cope. But as weary as she was, she somehow managed to persevere.

People like her are among the greatest saints, and they don't even know it.

There are times when we are at our lowest, and yet we have the stamina to carry on. It isn't easy, but by the grace of God it is possible.

The will to bear discomfort is at the basis of sound mental health. It's called perseverance, and it stems from the power of God — and the joy of God.

It's all very mysterious, I admit, but then the world of the supernatural is always baffling.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta would have understood this woman's problem.

According to recent revelations, Mother Teresa managed to keep on caring for the poorest of the poor in spite of her emotional emptiness. She fought through the darkness, trusting in God's strength. How did she do this?

I am convinced she asked the Lord to be her strength and her joy. She asked the Lord living in her to do for her what she was not able to do for herself.

She learned to live by faith, not by feelings.

As a result, her life never stopped producing good fruit. By depending on God's power and not her own, she suffered through the drudgery.

Once when Mother Teresa was seriously ill, she wrote the following: "Joy is prayer, joy is strength. Joy is love.

"Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives joy.

"The best way to show gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy. Never let anything so fill you

We become witnesses when, through our actions, words and way of being, another makes himself present" (n. 85).

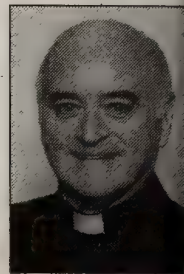
It is Christ the Lord who makes himself present through our daily witness. St. Anthony of Padua wrote of the diverse ways of proclaiming Christ by living the Christian virtues:

"The man who is filled with the Holy Spirit speaks in different languages. These different languages are different ways of witnessing to Christ, such as humility, poverty, patience and obedience; we speak in those languages when we reveal in ourselves these virtues to others.

"Actions speak louder than words;

### Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN  
CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the risen Christ. I tell this to my sisters, and I tell this to you."

What an amazing insight for someone so caught up in emotional emptiness! Obviously she willed herself to be joyful in spite of her feelings.

Joy is not in the feelings; it resides just beneath the surface.

The famous author C.S. Lewis was a strong defender of the faith. However, it may come as a surprise to learn that Clive Staples Lewis was, for most of his early life, a skeptic. He said it was God's grace that brought him from non-belief to Christianity.

Lewis always admired how God's love manifested itself in the lives of holy people.

He saw them risking everything to relieve the world's suffering by caring for plague victims, defending the rights of children, running soup kitchens and caring for the homeless.

Lewis saw all these activities as God's power issuing forth from their lives.

In troubled times we can still keep on keeping on. In spite of injustices, trials and sorrows, we can try to turn the other cheek and return good for evil.

The Lord becomes our strength and our joy in a hidden but powerful way.

Pray for the grace to be a saint and never be discouraged. The Lord is with you.

Pray, "Lord, I beg you to be my strength and joy, protect me from the folly of believing that I can do it all on my own."

let your words teach and your action speak" (Sermon I, 226).

For us, everything we do is to be proclamation of Christ.

### To prepare for the Eucharistic Congress

We can prepare for the Eucharistic Congress by opening our hearts to Christ and by asking him to change us to become more like him.

By our words and our action and by living Christ's love and the virtues, may we proclaim Christ to our brothers and sisters, so that they also may come to a greater love for the Lord.



# Saints in cyberspace

*New technology and religion combine online*

When I first heard the term "blog tour," I felt like a grandma wondering what the world the kids of today were up to.

I was confused about how a person could squeeze into a computer and then, in the cyber highway, find all of these "blog" destinations, where the author could pop out (of the computer) and start talking to all the readers of that blog.

It took me a while to revise my thinking on the technology of book tours that could actually be done online. No more wasted hours in an airport waiting for a delayed connecting flight.

Your little fingers do all the walking, and voila! You have visited several different markets (readers) in no time at all. But I had an even harder time applying this knowledge to the Catholic book industry. Let's face it, we aren't the most forward-thinking bunch out there.

We religious folk like tradition, and tradition isn't typically fond of, well, change, and therefore hates technology. Right?

Wrong! Jesuit Father James Martin, Tim Russert of the Catholic publishing world — because he's the keynote speaker at most major conferences — is

on TV almost as much as Katie Couric.

He appears in print every time I pick up a newspaper or magazine. Just recently he finished a blog tour for his bestselling book, "My Life with the Saints."

He didn't have to squeeze into a computer in order to find the blogs. He merely "visited," or wrote, for a series of Catholic blogs, one per day for one week. He even promised to "visit" (that means "write") me at my Beliefnet blog, "Beyond Blue."

I like what Father Jim says about this new way of spreading the good news, because sometimes I get so caught up in the language of technology for my blog — making sure I score a certain number of page-views (hits) — that I forget my mission: to be an instrument of God.

Says Father Jim: "Saints have long used creative ways to evangelize. From the earliest days of Christianity, the saints understood it was important to use any means possible to tell people about Jesus Christ."

"St. Paul, for example, travels by land and by sea, writes long letters and does whatever it takes to bring the word — or rather the Word — to a world that

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD  
CNS COLUMNIST



had never heard of Jesus."

Father Jim goes on to explain the ways saints are now finding their way into cyberspace. For example, an article I had written for Beliefnet.com is on how I owe my life to my patron saint, St. Therese of Lisieux.

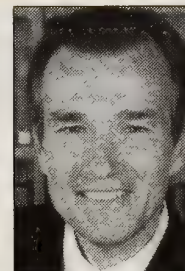
I received roses or a visible sign at every critical point in my life; this is the first item you see when you Google the words "shower of roses."

The second item is a blog named "Shower of Roses," written by a woman named Jessica, devoted entirely to the Little Flower. Google the term "saints" and you get over 75 million entries!

"Given the history of Christianity," says Father Jim, "the notion of a 'blog tour' to talk about the saints isn't so surprising. And I'll bet that if St. Paul were still around, rather than visiting Ephesus and Corinth, even he might be tempted to send them an e-mail or two!"

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



separating marriage from procreation. This will have ill consequence.

As a defender of life in its natural form, the Catholic Church understands that even the benign could mask a diabolical push for artificial wombs and the genetic manipulation of intelligence — a push that will no doubt grow now to accommodate even the minimal same-sex desire for simulating natural childbirth claimed to be of interest for the 20 percent to 30 percent of same-sex couples.

When carefully assessed, the acquisition of unnatural reproductive means often advances the interests of the very affluent through a libertarian exercise that would destroy all hope of democratic equality.

In a depopulating world, the claim that there is a universal right to marry regardless of the genders of those involved becomes a frightening ally of a claimed universal right to genetically engineered children.

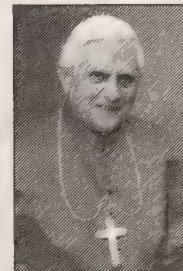
Yes, endorse claims of created equality when the distinctions of the past have been shown to lack reason. But do not pretend to make equal that which is not (procreative and nonprocreative relationships) or find a universal right to contradict human nature itself.

As contraception opened the door for abortion, same-sex marriage invites genetic manipulation that not only allows homosexuals to pretend to be parents, but also lends legitimacy to the fashioning of a new superman by genetic manipulation.

## Pope says values must focus on Jesus to avoid chaos, anarchy

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If values such as tolerance, freedom and dialogue do not have Jesus as their point of reference, they lose their true meaning and can lead to chaos, anarchy and empty chatter, Pope Benedict XVI said.

It is from Jesus that "we learn the truth about ourselves" and how to understand all the values that are upheld rightfully in the world, he said during his June 25 general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"Tolerance that doesn't know how to distinguish between good and evil would become chaotic and self-destructive" while absolute freedom that ignores the rights of others "becomes anarchy and destroys authority," he said.

"Dialogue that no longer knows what it should talk about becomes empty chatter" unless it and all the other great values in the world have a point of reference in the truth which is Christ — "the one absolute value, to whom all worldly values are directed," he said.

The pope's remarks were part of his catechesis highlighting the life and teachings of St. Maximus of Constantinople, a monk and doctor of the church who lived in the sixth and seventh centuries.

The pope said this Palestinian-born saint was "a heroic defender" of the church's teaching in the true humanity of Christ during a time of bitter controversy over Christ's humanity and divinity.

But the saint knew the negation of Christ's human will "destroys the mystery of salvation," the pope said.

He said St. Maximus understood that the salvation of humanity depends on Christ becoming completely and fully human, which includes the freedom to choose to cooperate with divine will.

"Adam — and this Adam includes us — thought that saying 'no' would be the greatest freedom; only he who can say 'no' would be truly free," the pope said. Adam believed saying "no" to God would mean he would finally be free to be himself and could realize his full potential, the pope said.

This temptation in human nature was present even in Jesus but he overcame it, said Pope Benedict.

Jesus saw it was not by denying God's will, but by saying "yes" to God's plan that brought about "the greatest freedom," the pope said.

People become their true selves only when they unite with the will of the divine, he said.

"Only by leaving ourselves behind, by being outside ourselves and in God do we find ourselves and our totality and completeness," he said.

# American bishops and the danger of same-sex marriage

*New laws may lead to depopulation, genetic manipulation*

American bishops, led by New York's Cardinal Edward Egan, have drawn an important distinction in the wake of the prudent and likely unauthorized effort by New York Gov. David Paterson to laterally promote so-called same-sex marriage by piggybacking on California.

Specifically, the bishops remind states to avoid invidious discrimination (e.g., discrimination against homosexuals in health designations, property ownership) without affirming a practice (same-sex marriage) which denies God's creative plan. The first rectifies man's prejudice; the second has the implied temerity oftribing bias to God himself.

Gay and lesbian people are within humanity acknowledged to be created equal in the Declaration of Independence, but this does not deprive the community through law of making necessary and reasoned distinction for its survival.

While some public officials like Gov. Paterson carelessly deploy their same-sex biological agenda, the Catholic prelates of New York more prudently urged "the [to] review whatever benefits or privileges that it has through the years conferred on married couples and, in cases where true discrimination may be at play, fashion legislative remedies."

Oddly, the California Supreme Court wrote a 170-plus page opinion without discussing among other things single-gender effects on childrearing or the innumerable difficulties of commodating religious freedom that

arise from the legal acceptance of same-sex marriage.

The proponents of same-sex marriage insist that inventing gay and lesbian marriage harms no one. This, however, overlooks the national and global decline in fertility, which threatens the economies of Europe and the U.S.

To say that the availability of same-sex marriage is not the principal cause of this decline in terms of absolute numbers is a fair point, but giving state approval to nonprocreative marriage cannot logically be denied as a contributing cause to the decline of families with natural children.

Several European countries, most notably France, have responded to delayed traditional marriage and dramatically reduced fertility with generous child subsidies and legal arrangements making it far easier for women to reconcile work and family.

Our French brothers and sisters, who Americans in the recent past have parodied, turn out to be far more sensitive to the importance of families than, say, a glib U.S. law and economics professor who spurned the suggestion that America follow the French example.

It is shortsighted in the extreme for the keepers of supply-and-demand curves to portray traditional, procreative families as "a stodgy bourgeois construct designed to channel the revolutionary energy of sexuality into diaper changing and carpooling."

Catholic teaching responds differently. Same-sex marriage rests upon





PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Campers hone their skills during a scrimmage at the Montagnard soccer camp at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 13. Teen parishioners Jordan Archer, Will O'Brien and Robey Spratt started the camp three years ago in an effort to reach out to the Montagnard community at the cathedral.

## NOT JUST FOR KICKS

# Teens build camaraderie through Montagnard soccer camp

*Lessons, friendships go beyond the field*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The idea started about four years ago after their team won the state championship for Charlotte Junior Soccer.

With the end of the soccer season, the three 12-year-old boys were looking for an excuse to hang out off the field. Each would be attending a different school in the fall and they needed something that would keep them connected.

Jordan Archer, Will O'Brien and Robey Spratt, parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, came up with an idea that would combine their love for soccer with their Catholic faith.

The next summer they started a free soccer camp for Montagnard children at the cathedral.

Montagnards are refugees from the central highlands of Vietnam, many of whom fought alongside U.S. Special Forces during the Vietnam War.

Known for their anti-communist resistance, Montagnards continue to be persecuted for their Christian faith in Vietnam. Since 1975 several thousand Montagnards have resettled in Charlotte, many through Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office.

"We always saw them at church, but there was never really any interaction," said Robey. "We wanted to connect our church as well as give them (the Montagnard children) a good (summer) activity."

"Now, when we see them at church, they know who we are," he added.

The success of the camp has been overwhelming.

"The first year we thought it would fail," said Jordan, who was in charge of sign-ups.

Each boy took on a different role in preparing for the camp.

Jordan handled sign-ups and recruitment, Will was in charge of donations, and Robey made arrangements for food and refreshments.

The boys ran announcements in the church bulletin and talked with

"It's truly heartwarming."

— Debbie O'Brien

parishioners after the weekend Masses.

The first year, about 15 children showed up on the first day of camp. Word spread fast and by the second day the attendance had doubled.

One of the things they have learned from the camp is that, "all kids are the same," said Will.

"They all want to have fun," he said.

This year more than 60 campers ages 3-16 came out for the third annual installment of the camp.

Each camper was given a jersey, shorts, shin-guards, soccer socks, cleats and a drawstring athletic bag.

The boys acquired the uniforms and equipment through the Passback Program. The program is a joint effort between the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Eurosport and Major League Soccer to help meet the soccer uniform and equipment needs of all communities, regardless of income, gender or location.

The program helps provide use apparel and equipment to athletes who can't afford to purchase their own.

"It's truly heartwarming," said Debbie O'Brien, Will's mother.

She talked about the leadership roles the boys, now 16, have taken on in running the camp.

"They're all a little shy," she said. But when they get out there, "somebody has to step up to the plate."

Each of the boys is the eldest of four children. Over the past few years, they have encouraged their younger siblings to help out at the camp.

In terms of keeping the camp going, the boys said they expect their siblings to carry on the tradition and they plan to come back and help, even after they go away to college.

"It will definitely be passed on," said Robey. "And hopefully carried out for a long time."

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## A voice to be heard

*N.C. bishops launch  
Catholic Voice NC  
Web site*

BY DAVID HAINS  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

RALEIGH — The two bishops of North Carolina have created an organization to give the state's Catholics a greater voice in the political process.

Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh made the announcement during a press conference in front of the State Legislative Building in Raleigh July 2.

The organization, Catholic Voice NC, consists mainly of a Web site, [www.catholicvoiceenc.org](http://www.catholicvoiceenc.org), that will facilitate contact between legislators and interested Catholics who register at the site.

"It is our belief that in a democracy, loving our neighbor

See WEB SITE, page 9

## Building a foundation of faith



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the foundation stone during the groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site of the new Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury June 29.

### Sacred Heart Church celebrates 125 years

**CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CHURCH  
TO BEGIN SOON**

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — It was the perfect combination of old and new — a celebration marking the historical 125th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, followed by the groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site of the new church.

On June 29, the feast of the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, along with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church; priests of the diocese; and parishioners celebrated the conclusion of the 125th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church with a Mass in the Omwake-Dearborn Chapel of Catawba College.

See CHURCH, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A volunteer assists an athlete during a floor hockey exercise at Camp SOAR. The Special Olympics Athletic Retreat for people with disabilities took place at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center June 16-20.

## SOARing spirits

*All smiles for athletes and volunteers at  
Special Olympics camp*

**CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC STUDENTS  
SERVE AS BUDDIES, MENTORS**

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Camp is to summer what fireworks are to the Fourth of July. Whether they revolve around sports, scouts, arts or academics, it seems there is a camp for everyone these days.

But it hasn't always been

that way.

Eight years ago, Bob Bowler, a retired food broker and parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, noticed that a certain population wasn't being reached by the multitude of summer camps offered in the Charlotte area.

Bowler saw that people with disabilities were being

See SOAR, page 9

## Roaming relics

*Relics of martyrs  
to visit churches  
throughout N.C.*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The relics of six Mexican martyrs will visit several churches in the Diocese of Charlotte as part of a 10-day pilgrimage throughout North Carolina this month.

The relics of six of the

See RELICS, page 13

##

### Faith in the family

*Mission of church begins at  
home, says theology expert*

| PAGE 6

### Culture Watch

*Book on priest translator;  
young actress lauds Bible*

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### Strengthened in faith

*Congress attendees embrace  
the 'Living Bread'*

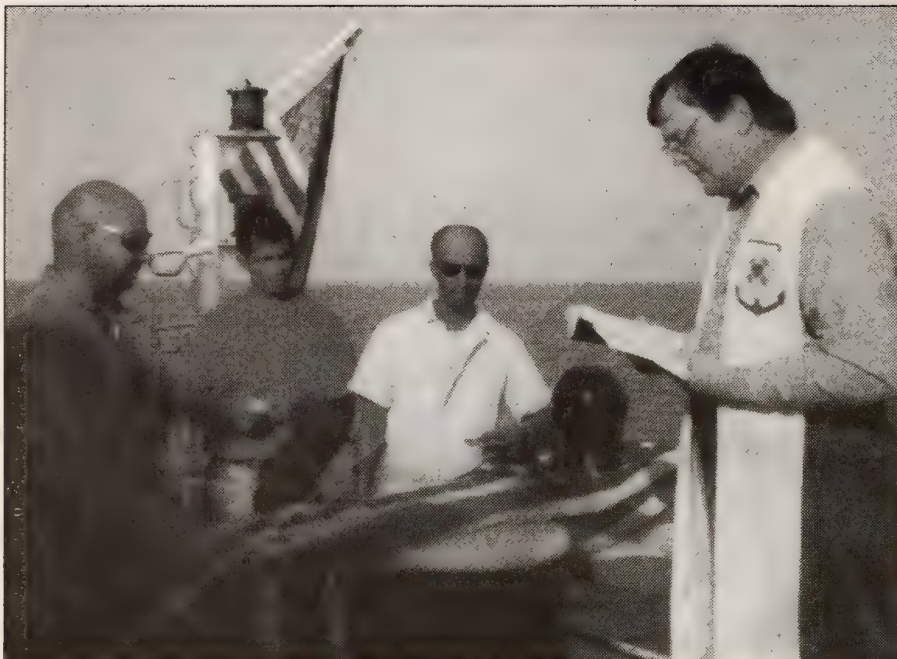
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## SEAFARING SPIRIT



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER OUBRE

Father Sinclair Oubre, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Port Arthur, Texas, and head of the Apostleship of the Sea for the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, presides over a burial at sea in this undated photo.

## Pastor, labor advocate, seafarer, biker: Texas priest does it all

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Sinclair Oubre, like many priests, has multiple responsibilities.

They include being pastor of a parish and administrator of a mission in the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas; running the Apostleship of the Sea office for the diocese and serving on the apostleship's national board; being Web site administrator of the Catholic Labor Network and sponsoring meetings in Washington in conjunction with the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering; and being on the board of directors of Interfaith Worker Justice.

Now, what could a man like that do that would combine all of those interests and avocations?

Would you believe working one month every year as a seafarer — using his accumulated vacation time from priestly ministry to do so?

Father Oubre, 50, first started working on boats as a seminary student during the summer to help pay for tuition. Now he does it to keep active his membership in the International Seafarers' Union, and as a change of pace from parish life.

But on board Father Oubre isn't totally away from the priesthood.

"I'll have my Mass kit with me and I say Mass in my room and sometimes they (other seafarers) join me," said Father Oubre.

Because the other seafarers on the ship know he's a priest, they'll come to him with their troubles, such as the difficulty they are facing in becoming a Catholic or getting married in the church — with their crew schedule, they

don't have shore leave to attend classes required by the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program or the marriage preparation classes they need.

"Usually I try to explain to them what they need to do," Father Oubre said.

The priest has other interests, among them cigars, baseball and Lionel trains. He also likes riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

At sea, Father Oubre said, his day is dictated by the hours of the watch — "12 to 4, 4 to 8, 8 to 12. You stand (for) two four-hour watches every day. You do the watches and then usually you work four hours of overtime a day. So basically you're doing 12 hours of work a day," he said.

Father Oubre is usually sailing on a U.S.-flagged tanker carrying refined petroleum products to Florida, Louisiana or up the East Coast. His latest seafarer stretch was in January — he sailed to relieve a crew that was assisting a tanker 20 miles off of Puerto Rico.

"I've been in 15-foot seas," Father Oubre said. "We were beat up pretty bad in January. There was a cold front in January that spawned a number of destructive tornadoes."

Father Oubre is an able-bodied seaman, known as AB.

"In the old days, the 'AB' guys were the guys who were able to go up into the mast," he said, which implied that one had the skill to handle heights and "a lot of other stuff."

"I'm getting a little old to do this stuff," he said with a laugh. He hopes to join another crew in November.

## Bishop apologizes for 'tragedy' of abortion aided by Charities' staff

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond, Va., expressed his "profound apology for the loss of the life of one of the most vulnerable among us" after employees of a Catholic Charities office in his diocese helped a refugee minor obtain an abortion last January.

"I apologize for the profound embarrassment this has caused the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, and Catholics throughout the United States," Bishop DiLorenzo said June 30.

Calling the abortion a "monumental tragedy," the bishop said, "I join my sadness to yours at the loss of the life of an unborn child whose teenage mother was in the foster care of Commonwealth Catholic Charities."

Bishop DiLorenzo was notified about the abortion the day before it occurred and "was very explicit in saying, 'I forbid this to happen,'" according to a July 1 statement by Joanne D. Natrass, executive director of

Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

However, "based on erroneous and incorrect information provided to Natrass, the bishop was told it could not be stopped," the statement said.

News of the Jan. 18 abortion and an exchange of letters from federal and church officials in April surfaced in mid-June.

The abortion already has led to the firing of four employees of Commonwealth Catholic Charities who were involved in facilitating the abortion or helping the minor obtain a contraceptive device. An employee of the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services responsible for supervising them also was suspended.

But the case also could involve violations of federal law, which prohibits the use of tax money to fund abortions, and Virginia law, which requires parental consent before a minor's abortion. One of the Catholic Charities workers signed to give consent for the minor, whose parents could not be located.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month, 1-3 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or [jnell@dn.net](mailto:jnell@dn.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an

increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "*Comfort, comfort, my people*" will be presented by Susan Brady at the 2008 Summer Bible Institute at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This program will deal with the historical realities underlying Isaiah 40-55 as well as its impact on every single book of the New Testament. The seminar takes place Monday-Friday, July 14-18, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in the New Life Center Banquet Room. This event is free and open to the public. To register, call (704) 543-7677 ext. 1020.

CHARLOTTE — The *Compassionate Friends of Charlotte* meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The organization is a support group for parents who have lost a child, regardless of cause of death or age of the child. The group meets at 7 p.m. in room 234. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call Donna or Ralph Goodrich at (804) 882-4503 or send an e-mail to [iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net](mailto:iluvu2lauren@earthlink.net).

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Saturday of each month at 5 p.m. Confession at 4 p.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, e-mail Father Mark Shuey at [mshuey2@nc.rr.com](mailto:mshuey2@nc.rr.com) or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Pray the rosary* at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.,

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope asks Catholics to pray for WYD; Vatican announces indulgences

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics around the world to pray for the young people who will gather with him in Sydney, Australia, for the celebration of World Youth Day.

To help encourage the prayers of all, the Vatican announced July 5 that the pope had authorized a special indulgence for anyone who, "with a contrite spirit," raises a "prayer to God, the Holy Spirit, so that young people are drawn to charity and given the strength to proclaim the Gospel with their life," a Vatican decree said.

Pope Benedict spoke about his July 12-21 trip to Australia at his summer villa south of Rome for the July 6 recitation of the Angelus. World Youth Day runs July 15-20 in Sydney.

Focusing on prayers for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Catholic youths around the world, the Sydney

celebration can be "a renewed Pentecost," the pope said.

The pope asked everyone to join him in praying that the Spirit would fill the hearts of young Catholics with "interior light, love for God and their brothers and sisters, (and with) courageous initiatives" to bring Jesus to every land and every sphere of life.

The July 5 decree about indulgences connected to World Youth Day included the offer of a plenary, or full, indulgence to all the young people who will gather with the pope in Sydney.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. The conditions necessary for receiving a plenary indulgence include having recently gone to confession, receiving the Eucharist and offering prayers for the intentions of the pope.

information, contact Joan Moran at (828)-327-0487.

followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

## GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The Blanketeers of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. The next workshop will be July 19, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or go online to [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org).

BELMONT — A summer film festival for adults will take place at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., on Tuesday evenings through the month of July. The July 15 showing will be "Joyeux Noel," a dramatic portrayal of the "Christmas truce" between German and allied forces during WWI. On July 29 there will be a viewing of "Sophie Scholl," a cinematic presentation of her leadership in The White Rose, a German nonviolent resistance to the Nazi regime during WWII. All screenings will take place 7:30-9 p.m. in the conference room. No fees or registration required. For more information, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail [eallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:eallfleming@yahoo.com).

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic A Woman's Choice, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A charismatic Mass is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further

# Vatican regrets Church of England's move toward women bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has expressed its disappointment with a July 7 decision by the Church of England, the mother church of the Anglican Communion, to move ahead with plans to allow the ordination of women bishops.

"We have learned with disappointment of the news of the vote by the Church of England that opens the way to the introduction of legislation that leads to the ordination of women bishops," said a July 8 statement from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"Such a decision means a break from the apostolic tradition maintained by all the churches of the first millennium and is, therefore, a further obstacle for reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Church of England," said the statement.

The 428 bishops, clergy and laypeople who make up the General Synod of the Church of England spent more than six hours July 7 debating what, if any, kinds of accommodation would be made to allow Anglicans who object to women bishops to continue to be part of the church.

The synod voted to reject all special forms of accommodation and instead

to draft a "national code of practice," which could include suggesting a woman bishop delegate her care for objectors to a "complementary bishop" who would be male.

The July 7 vote was seen as a clear signal that the majority of the members of the Church of England support ordaining women bishops and that the church intends to do so.

Before that vote, Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's chief ecumenist, had told top members of the Church of England that ordaining women bishops would mean that the goal of restoring full communion between Catholics and Anglicans "would realistically no longer exist" because it could not exist "without full communion in the episcopal office."

He had said a further consequence of a resolution in favor of women bishops would be that the Catholic Church would inevitably continue to refuse to recognize the validity of Anglican orders.

On several occasions, Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Kasper have expressed their hopes that the Anglican Communion can remain united. But they have said unity must be based on fidelity to the Scriptures and tradition, including moral issues.

# Illuminating the issues



CNS PHOTO BY JO YONG-HAK, REUTERS

Catholic nuns hold up candles during a rally to demand the full-scale renegotiation of a U.S. beef import deal and the resignation of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, in front of City Hall in Seoul, South Korea, July 5. The signs read, "Lee Myung-bak out!" South Koreans fearful of mad cow disease have participated in major protests since April against a U.S. beef import deal.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**July 12 (5:30 p.m.)**  
Installation of Father Christopher Roux as rector and pastor  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**July 27 (11 a.m.)**  
Mass to bless new parish activity center  
St. Joseph Church, Charlotte

**July 29 (4 p.m.)**  
Mass for Couple to Couple League Conference  
Ridgecrest

**Aug. 3 (12:30 p.m.)**  
Scroll Mass for Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

## DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.



# Grants distributed to local organizations

*Event celebrates anti-poverty efforts in North Carolina*

CANDLER — More than 70 people representing 19 organizations gathered recently to receive local check grants from the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) program.

The grants were presented during a luncheon at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler May 22.

The event also offered an opportunity for the recipients to network with other organizations working to address poverty in western North Carolina.

The organizations represented the wide-ranging intent of CCHD funding — to support community-based solutions to poverty.

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, funding community development projects around the country.

Mary Jane Bruton, diocesan CCHD director, greeted the local grantees, who traveled to the luncheon from locations across the diocese.

Bruton thanked "first and foremost" the Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte, whose generosity in the annual CCHD collection made possible the 2008 local grant monies of more than \$45,000.

Ralph McCloud, CCHD national director, also spoke during the event.

He applauded the efforts of the organizations present and urged them to continue to involve the poor in developing resources to address the challenges of daily living and strategies to improve their options for the future.

Representatives of two grant recipients also took to the podium.

Deni Graves, executive director of the Hurlbert-Johnson Friendship House in Murphy, described her organization's work to provide temporary housing and resources to homeless people to help them obtain long-term housing and employment.

Kevin Drexel, board member with the Burnsville Land Community, a nonprofit that represents residents of a manufactured housing park, thanked CCHD for its funding of this innovative rural housing program.

"This project, the first of its kind in North Carolina, addresses a need at a time when traditional affordable housing is not available to this community," he said.

"CCHD has provided critical financial support at this early stage," said Drexel.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kevin Drexel, board member with the Burnsville Land Community, receives a grant check from Mary Jane Bruton, diocesan Catholic Campaign for Human Development director, during a luncheon at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler May 22.

Joe Keffer, member of the CCHD advisory committee, spoke to the grant recipients and others present to emphasize the effectiveness of their efforts.

"You are the people at the grassroots who know the problems associated with

poverty and you have demonstrated your ability to devise means of bringing people in your communities together creatively to achieve social justice," he said.

"We need thousands more like you and this is what CCHD wishes to encourage," he added.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about the diocesan Catholic Campaign for Human Development, contact Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3234 or [mjbruton@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mjbruton@charlottediocese.org), or go online to [www.cssnc.org/cchd\\_crs.html](http://www.cssnc.org/cchd_crs.html).

## Pittsburgh Priest to Host

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PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (center) and Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, take part in a ceremonial groundbreaking at the construction site of the new Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury June 29. Also participating (from left) are Wendy Roueche-McCullough, chairman of the parish pastoral council; Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams, parochial associate; Dominican Sister Anastasia Pagullayan, principal of Sacred Heart School; and Father Jean Pierre Swamunu Lhoposo, parochial vicar.

# Sacred Heart Church celebrates 125 years

CHURCH, from page 1

Later that day, in a fitting tribute to the two saints known as the founders of the Catholic Church, a commencement ceremony took place to mark the laying of a literal foundation — the one for the building of the new Sacred Heart Church and school.

"Celebrating 125 years here in Salisbury is a true milestone for our parish because it reminds us that in this world that is forever changing, the eternal truths of Christ and his church remain steadfast," said Father Putnam.

The first Sacred Heart Church was built in 1882, long before the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, and dedicated by Bishop Henry Northrup of Charleston, S.C.

A few Catholic families had resided in the area since the 1830s, and it was through their efforts that the founding of the church was brought to fruition.

"We celebrate the sacrifices that were made by those first Catholics back in the 19th century," said Father Putnam.

The legacy of those founding families has been carried on over the years and many of their ancestors are parishioners to this day.

"We celebrate all of the wonderful accomplishments and contributions that our parishioners have made both in this parish and in this community over the years," said Father Putnam.

In 1910, Sisters of Mercy from Belmont opened a private convent and school near Sacred Heart Church. It became a parish institution in the early 1940s. Today approximately 220 students are enrolled in the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade Sacred Heart School.

"It shows the great progress that has been made through the church," said Mercy Sister Clara Virginia Kelly, who grew up attending both the parish and Sacred Heart School.

Sister Kelly is one of seven men and women from the parish to have answered the call to the priesthood or religious life.

"We have so much to be thankful for because of the people of the church," she said.

"We're a big family," said Gail Mintz, lifelong parishioner and business manager at Sacred Heart School.

"I've received every single one of my sacraments in this church," she said. "It has been an extremely important part of my life."

Fellow lifelong parishioner Michele Moore Vaeth agreed. "I have loved this little church," she said. "It will be hard to leave this spot."

"But with change, good things come," she added.

The new church and school will be built on 104 acres of land.

"I think it is an absolutely wonderful opportunity for the church," said Mintz who is looking forward to having the extra space for the students to play.

"For the school we see grass," she said. "All we have now is concrete."

"It's beautiful rolling pasture land," said Vaeth. "You feel like you are out there in God's country because it is so peaceful and beautiful."

The land was acquired through a trade in 2007. A cemetery to include 660 plots has already been established and was blessed by Bishop Jugis Sept. 1, 2007.

The building project is expected to be completed in 12-13 months, according to Mike Vaeth, chairman of the building committee. The project is estimated to cost \$8.9 million excluding the land, which is already paid for.

"The church is overcrowded," said Vaeth. With the new property, there will be a "lot of room for the parishioners to move around," he added.

The new church will seat approximately 800 people — four times as many as the old church.

"The parish exists to further Jesus' mission of salvation," said Bishop Jugis. "Jesus came for the salvation of all humanity. Sacred Heart Parish plays an important role in that universal mission."

"You are meant to be a haven for society, providing the haven of Christ's presence to this community," he told parishioners.

In terms of what will be next for Sacred Heart Church, Father Putnam said, "We celebrate our hopes for a bright future dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel message and the truths of Christ and his church for many years to come."

## Join Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and others for a Pilgrimage to Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine near Quebec City in Canada

October 8 - 13th



The year 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the first chapel erected on the site of the Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America.

This special pilgrimage will leave Charlotte Wednesday, October 8, and fly to Montreal where the first two days will be spent touring that fascinating city and its beautiful churches, including the Oratory of St. Joseph. The group will then travel to Quebec City for the special weekend celebrations honoring the 350th anniversary of the historical chapel. On October 13, the group will return to Montreal and fly back to Charlotte.

The cost is \$2,030 per person (double occupancy) and includes roundtrip airfare from Charlotte, hotels and hotel taxes, breakfasts, dinners, land transportation, all transfers and baggage handling at hotels.

Registration deadline is: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st.

Check our web page at [www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html](http://www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html) for the application or call the St. Ann Church office at 704-523-4641 for more information.

(This is a privately-organized tour, not sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte.)

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# Faith in the family

*Mission of the church begins at home, says theology expert*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Families of all shapes, sizes and backgrounds recently gathered to affirm the idea that the foundations of faith must be built in the home.

The Re-evangelization of the Domestic Church Conference was held in the parish activity center of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 13-14.

"The home is a church," said Rachida Faille, parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church and coordinator of the event. "That is where the church comes from."

The conference began on Friday with an introduction by Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, and included talks on topics such as "The Family Table as Shrine and Sanctuary" and "God's Vision of the Family: The Nature of Man and Woman."

It continued on Saturday with Mass and talks on "The Family, Part of God's Plan of Salvation" and "Developing a Catholic Culture in the Domestic Church."

The conference featured keynote speaker Dr. Joseph Atkinson, associate professor of Sacred Scripture at the John Paul II Institute at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a leading expert in theology of the domestic church.

A children's mission was held simultaneously, providing catecheses for children who attended the event with their parents.

"My goal was to help the people of St. Vincent de Paul Church understand clearly what the biblical vision of marriage and family was," said Atkinson.

"There are so many forces which today seek to distort and even destroy the family, and we need to hear God's truth so we can be set free from all the false notions that fill our society," he said.

A reoccurring theme throughout the conference was the idea that parents must be responsible for teaching the faith to their children.

The idea that evangelization must

"There are so many forces which today seek to distort and even destroy the family ...."

— Joseph Atkinson

begin within the family is rooted in the concept of the "domestic church."

"The domestic church is a term that refers to the baptized family," said Atkinson. "It means that the family that is baptized into Christ shares in both the nature and the mission of the church."

"The goal would be for families to prioritize the spiritual life with the many competing ideas in society," said Father Lawlor.

It is the responsibility of "parents to be very deliberate," he said. Leading, "not by force or pressure," but by "good example and by being steadfast."

Another goal of the conference was for families of different cultures and backgrounds to come together on a Christian level.

A unique effort was made to include Latino members of the parish through the use of a translator and special technology.

"St. Vincent's is very heavily populated with Latinos, whose culture comes to us with a strong family community," said Faille. "I felt that we could not let that fall to the wayside."

"This was the first time that my slides and talks were translated," said Atkinson. "The Latino community greatly participated in this event and was very involved."

"Because everything was translated, they could understand, participate and contribute," he said. "It was a model for how churches can help to include all parishioners."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Dr. Joseph Atkinson, a leading expert in the theology of the domestic church, gives a presentation during The Re-evangelization of the Domestic Church Conference at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte June 13-14. Latino participants listen through headsets as the talk is translated from English to Spanish.




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# All smiles for athletes and volunteers at Camp SOAR

SOAR, from page 1

turned away from regular summer camps because they required too much assistance.

He changed all that when he started Camp SOAR, a Special Olympics Athletic Retreat for people with disabilities.

Bowler has been involved with the Special Olympics in Charlotte for the past 30 years. He noticed that there were not many activities available to special athletes during the summer months.

"I kept thinking about it and praying about it," he said.

He came up with the idea for the camp and approached the director of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center (JCC) about using the facility.

"I told him, 'I don't have any money, just a lot of dreams,'" said Bowler.

He was granted use of the facility and its staff. This year the camp was held June 16-20.

It was free and open to all special needs individuals ages 10 and up. Overall, nearly 300 athletes participated.

The first two days of the camp were devoted to the older athletes, ages 25 and up, while the rest of the week was for the younger set. On Friday, all the athletes came out for the conclusion of the camp featuring a pizza party, dancing, entertainment and health screenings.

The goal is to provide a full summer camp experience.

The mornings are devoted to sports including bocce, tennis, soccer, basketball, floor hockey and swimming. After lunch there is bingo, arts and crafts and bowling, the only off-campus activity. Everything else takes place on the 54-acre campus of the JCC.

A unique aspect of the camp is its buddy system. Each athlete is paired with a volunteer, ensuring all athletes are provided with one-on-one attention.

This year there were more than 200 volunteers, 70 of whom are students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

"All our volunteers are very special," said Stern. "They are the heart and soul of the camp."

"We really feel that Charlotte Catholic

is an integral part of this thing," said Al Tinson, media relations volunteer for Special Olympics Mecklenburg County and parishioner of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte. "We could not do this at the level that we do without these kids."

Bowler said he's impressed by the dedication of the student volunteers.

"I think it shows that they are really being taught the principles and values of life," he said.

In the end, "they get more out of it than the campers," he added.

"The first year I was a little nervous," said Charlotte Catholic rising senior Sara Poffenbarger, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church. "I didn't know what to expect."

Now in her third year as a volunteer Poffenbarger said, "I come home everyday a little bit tired, but always excited for the next day."

Another unique aspect of Camp SOAR is how its benefits carry over into other aspects of the participants' lives.

For the athletes, it "builds self-esteem and self-confidence," said Bowler.

"When they come back year after year, you know it's making an impact on their lives," he said.

And for the volunteers, "It makes them better people," said Bowler.

"The teenage volunteers are really special because they take the experience with them to their college years and future lives," said Stern.

"I've learned to be grateful for what I have and not take the little things that I can do for granted," said Charlotte Catholic rising senior Hannah Roy, a fifth-year volunteer and parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

"I've learned that I want to work with people like the campers when I get older," she said.

Many students agreed that the best part of the volunteering at the camp is working with the athletes.

"You can see the difference you're making by bringing a smile to any one of the campers' faces," said Charlotte Catholic rising junior Brandon Shell, a parishioner of St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

Bowler agrees. "I just love to see the smiles," he said. "It brings tears to my eyes."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

# Devout Scouts



Father Robert Ferris, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, is pictured with four Boy Scouts who received their Ad Altare Dei emblems during Mass Feb. 24. The Ad Altare Dei ("to the altar of God") emblem is available to Catholic Boy Scouts; the program emphasizes study of the seven sacraments. Pictured are (from left) Matthew Marchese of Troop 234, Jonathan Lomboy of Troop 351, Robert Liljeberg of Troop 351 and Matthew McAnulty of Troop 234.

# Locks of love



Anne Vickers, 12, and Bonnie Aberle, 11, hold the locks of their hair they are donating to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Anne, a parishioner of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnnton, and Bonnie, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Newton, are pictured in a Hickory hair salon May 13.

They read about the Locks for Love program in The Catholic News & Herald and, when one of their classmates was diagnosed with alopecia, a hair-loss condition, they decided to help.

"I sure hope people would donate hair if I had alopecia," said Bonnie. "I'm happy to share this gift that God gave me."

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# The elusive Catholic voter

## A somewhat contradictory statistical look

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — If you could program a computer to design a person according to the statistical portrait of U.S. Catholics depicted in the latest data from two surveys, someone like the fictional "Susan Shea" might emerge as an "average" representation of who makes up the church.

This "average" Catholic may not be affiliated with either party, but leans toward the Democrats, believes abortion should be legal in most cases and supports stricter environmental regulations.

She would prefer diplomacy over military intervention but would just as soon the United States stayed out of international problems.

Her attitudes about government and public affairs are shaped largely by her personal experience and what she learns from the news media, rather than anything she has been taught by the church.

And she pays pretty close attention to what's going on politically, at least some of the time.

"Shea" is pretty happy with her own standard of living and very satisfied with her family life and doesn't worry much about crime or terrorism affecting her personally.

But she's not so pleased with the way things are going in the country. For one thing, she's pretty dissatisfied with the way the U.S. political system works.

She thinks the government should do more to provide health care and help the needy, even if it means more national debt and bigger government.

After exit polling from the 2004 presidential election found that "moral values" stood out as the most important consideration for voters, campaign strategists have focused more than ever on how to appeal to voters of various faiths.

With another close presidential election shaping up, analysts working for both parties will no doubt be parsing any faith-based polling for clues as to how to appeal to Catholic voters.

Two sets of public opinion survey data released over a few days in June complement each other in suggesting what might define the "Catholic voter"

this election year.

Reams of information were included in data from the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life released June 23. This followed the release a few days earlier of an election year forecast of who will constitute Catholic voters by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

The CARA study of 1,007 Catholic voters found 41 percent unaffiliated with either the Democratic Party or Republican Party, with 38 percent who are registered Democrats and 21 percent who are registered Republicans.

In the CARA study:

— Seventy-eight percent said the U.S. should guarantee basic health care for all citizens.

— Fifty-eight percent said a woman should have the right to choose an abortion.

— Forty-one percent said they believe all human life, from conception to natural death, is sacred.

In the Pew study, the largest segment of the Catholics surveyed, 35 percent, said they are most influenced by personal experience in their thinking about government and public affairs.

The next-largest segment was 23 percent who said they're most influenced by the news media, followed by 14 percent who cited their education. Just 9 percent said religious beliefs are their biggest influence.

When it comes to deciding questions of right and wrong, "practical experience and common sense" were cited as the strongest influence by 57 percent, followed by 22 percent who said religious teachings and beliefs are their main influences.

According to Pew's survey of more than 35,000 people nationwide, including more than 8,000 Catholics, the following characteristics define Catholic Americans' views on political issues. Unless otherwise noted, the figures for Catholics mirror those for the population as a whole within 5 percentage points or less.

— Thirty-six percent describe their politics as conservative, 38 percent say they're moderates and 18 percent describe themselves as liberals.

— Sixty percent of Catholics

say stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.

— Sixty-four percent say good diplomacy is the best way to ensure peace, compared to 25 percent who said the best way to ensure peace is through military strength.

— Just over half, 55 percent, said the U.S. should concentrate on domestic problems instead of overseas concerns, compared to 36 percent who said "it's best for the future of the country to be active in world affairs."

— Sixty-three percent said the government should do more to help the needy and 51 percent said they prefer a bigger government with more services.

— Sixteen percent believe abortion should be legal in all cases, and another

32 percent say it should be legal in most cases. Just 18 percent said it should be illegal in all cases; 27 percent said it should be illegal in most cases.

— Seventy-seven percent said they are very satisfied with their family life; another 16 percent are "somewhat satisfied."

— Seventy-seven percent said they are at least somewhat satisfied with their standard of living.

For the Pew data, the statistical margin of error for the sample of 8,054 Catholics has a margin of error of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

CARA's data, with parts of it gathered over several years, has a statistical margin of error ranging between plus or minus 2.3 percentage points and plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

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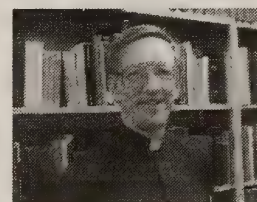
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Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. is a priest of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from St. Louis U. and a M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has received both the Graduate Student Faculty of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Student Faculty of the Year Award from Fordham University.

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# N.C. bishops launch Catholic Voice NC Web site

WEB SITE, from page 1

and caring for the least among us means supporting leaders and policies that promote the common good and protect society's most vulnerable members," said Bishop Jugis to reporters, news cameras and crowd of approximately 50 people.

Bishop Burbidge concurred in stating, "Catholics bring a lot of experience to the political dialogue. We have worked for centuries in education, health care and social services to serve the public and to make our society better."

The bishops invited interested Catholics to visit the Web site and to register. The site contains background information, statements from the bishops and documents from the Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on four issues on which Catholic Voice NC will initially focus — anti-abortion, stem-cell research, immigration and end-of-life issues such as euthanasia.

Catholics and others who register on the Web site will receive newsletters from the two bishops regarding legislation under consideration in Raleigh.

In addition, registered participants will receive occasional e-mail alerts from the bishops asking them to contact legislators about specific legislation.

The Web site will identify the legislators involved and will supply the participants with contact information for each legislator. Participants also will have the ability to send e-mails directly to legislators.

Catholic Voice NC is working with VoterVoice, a Louisiana-based Web company that provides similar database support to statewide Catholic conferences around the country. It provides the services used to match Catholics from throughout a particular state with their respective legislators.

Bishop Jugis pledged to reporters that neither diocese nor VoterVoice will sell, loan or give any of the personal information gathered to any individual or organization.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, along with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, announces the launch of Catholic Voice NC outside the State Legislative Building in Raleigh July 2.

Also at the press conference Bishop Burbidge announced Catholic Voice NC will conduct a survey of the positions held by legislative candidates and candidates for governor.

The candidates will be asked whether they support or oppose legislation across a wide range of issues, including abortion, immigration, embryonic stem-cell research, same-sex marriage and the death penalty.

Survey results will be published in late September on the Web site, as well as in The Catholic News & Herald and NC Catholics, a publication of the Diocese of Raleigh.

Since the bishops' announcement, the Catholic Voice NC Web site has been

"... Caring for the least among us means supporting leaders and policies that promote the common good and protect society's most vulnerable members."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

well trafficked, registering an average of approximately 100 new participants per day.

CatholicVoiceNC will seek additional participants through advertising in diocesan media and bulletin inserts.

The N.C. legislature is expected to continue its short session until late July. Three pieces of legislation currently being watched by Catholic Voice NC are a constitutional amendment that would stipulate marriage as the union of one man and one woman only; a "Choose Life" specialty license plate, which raises funds for anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers; and support for the Senate version of the School Violence Protection Act.

Detailed information about each initiative can be found on the Catholic Voice NC Web site.

After the November general election, the legislature will convene anew in January 2009.

Funding for Catholic Voice NC is shared equally by the two dioceses.

David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

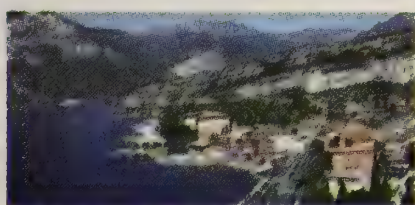
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**Wednesday, October 15 — St. Barnabas, Arden — 10am-3 pm**

Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Oct. 2nd

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

**Tuesday, Oct. 28 — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory — 10am-3pm**

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, October 14th

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. John McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Church

**Thursday, November 13 — St. James, Hamlet — 10:30am-3pm**

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 4th

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, retired, Belmont Abbey

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Carmelites honor Father Kavanaugh for life's work as translator

BY PAT MORRISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TOLEDO, Ohio — Discalced Carmelite Father Kieran Kavanaugh has reached a milestone as a translator of Carmelite spiritual classics.

With this year's publication of the second and final volume of "The Collected Letters of St. Teresa of Avila" by the Washington-based Institute of Carmelite Studies, Father Kavanaugh has now translated all of the works of the Carmelite mystics and spiritual giants St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila for the contemporary English-speaking world.

To mark the 50 years of Father Kavanaugh's life's work and the completion of the translation project, his Carmelite confreres at the institute contributed essays to a book honoring the priest-translator, titled "A Better Wine: Essays Celebrating Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD."

"A Better Wine" takes its title from the story in John's Gospel of the wedding at Cana, in which, after Jesus changes water into wine, the steward announces to the wedding's host, "You have saved the better wine until now."

According to the book's editor, Discalced Carmelite Father Kevin Culligan, the title is an apt one to celebrate Father Kavanaugh's life and ministry: Eucharist — bread and wine becoming the body and blood of Christ — is transformation without parallel; the contemplative living taught by the Carmelite saints is similarly God's great work of transformation of the human person.

Thus, the Cana image seemed doubly appropriate to celebrate "a Carmelite priest whose ministry for 50 years has been the transformation of our lives in God through love," Father Culligan said in a phone interview.

The nine essays by Carmelite scholars range from St. Teresa's Christology, to a psychological interpretation of a selected chapter of St. John's "Dark Night," and learning how to meditate.

The 353-page volume also includes

essays on the Holy Spirit, Mary, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Teresa's humor, modern concentration camp Carmelite martyrs St. Edith Stein and Father Jacques Bunel, and the contemporary influence of the Carmelite mystical school.

The celebratory volume has been a long-awaited gift for Father Kavanaugh. It was first planned for his 75th birthday, then for his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

When "A Better Wine" came off the press last year, the timing was even more significant: The order presented the book just as Father Kavanaugh completed his translation of the last volume of St. Teresa's letters — an accomplishment that effectively marked the close of his lifetime of translating the works of St. John and St. Teresa.

Since 1957 — almost his entire priestly ministry — the Milwaukee native has dedicated his life to translating the thousands of pages that comprise the works of the 16th-century Spanish Carmelite spiritual masters, Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, from the original Spanish into standard American English.

The fresh translations — which Father Kavanaugh regularly updated with new scholarship — have helped to bring the spiritual teachings of these two famous but often previously unread Carmelite saints into the lives of modern scholars of all religious traditions. Today these affordable translations are available from the United States to the Philippines, and from Africa to Great Britain.

Father Kavanaugh is not only known for his translations, but is also an internationally recognized expert on Carmelite saints and spirituality. His 10-page bibliography lists 82 published articles, essays, reviews and translations on Carmelite themes, published in English, Spanish and Italian.

Currently, he is the Washington province's postulator, or promoter, of causes for canonization of Discalced Carmelite friars, nuns and lay members.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 20, 2007

July 20, Sixteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 12:13, 16-19  
Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
- 2) Romans 8:26-27  
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

## God sees our hearts, knows our prayers

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Years ago, tragedy struck a family when the son was skipping school and goofing around with some friends and an air-powered BB gun. This was a recipe for disaster. Just before the party ended, the son was shot in the head. The BB hit him in the center of his forehead and went halfway into his brain. He was rushed to the hospital.

By the time I arrived he was in surgery, and I went looking for the family. When I found them the scene was a restless concoction of fear, shock, prayer, tears, blind hope, loss, faith, despair and numbness.

The doctors finally came out and told the family that their son's condition was not good. Even if he survived, they said, there was no guarantee that this honor student would ever walk again, much less finish high school.

But over the next several years, many hours of therapy and hard work saw this young man graduate from high school, and now he is working on his second college degree.

Long after the accident his mother recalled what she felt in that waiting room. She said she had been so numb that she couldn't find the words to pray.

This woman who I consider to be deeply faith-filled, wanted to call out to her savior, but no words would come. The only thing she could get her brain to say to God was the prayers of the rosary.

Her family had prayed it every time they got in the car when she was a child, and so these prayers were imbedded within her.

This is the form of prayer that St. Paul speaks of when he says: "And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will."

Through the tear-filled prayers of the rosary beads, the Spirit of God interceded for this mother in her greatest hour of need. Just because the right words do not come does not mean the prayer is not prayed.

There is no doubt in my mind that the groanings of this mother in the waiting room, while too deep for words, made it to the heart of God.

**Question:**

What does knowing that the Spirit intercedes for our inexpressible prayers tell you about God?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 13-19

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23; Monday (BL. Kateri Tekakwitha), Isaiah 1:10-17, Matthew 10:34-11:1; Tuesday (St. Bonaventure), Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24; Wednesday (Our Lady of Mount Carmel), Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27; Thursday, Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-30; Friday (St. Camillus de Lellis), Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8, Isaiah 38:10-12, 16, Matthew 12:1-8; Saturday, Micah 2:1-5, Matthew 12:14-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 20-26

Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43; Monday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi), Micah 6:1-4, 6-8, Matthew 12:38-42; Tuesday (St. Mary Magdalene), Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, John 20:1-2, 11-18; Wednesday (St. Bridget of Sweden), Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10, Matthew 13:1-9; Thursday (St. Sherbel Makhlof), Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13, Matthew 13:10-17; Friday (St. James), 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28; Saturday (Sts. Joachim and Anne), Jeremiah 7:1-11, Matthew 13:24-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27-AUGUST 2

Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52; Monday, Jeremiah 13:1-11, Deuteronomy 32:18-21, Matthew 13:31-35; Tuesday (St. Martha), Jeremiah 14:17-22, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday (St. Peter Chrysologus), Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46; Thursday (St. Ignatius of Loyola), Jeremiah 18:1-6, Matthew 13:47-53; Friday (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-58; Saturday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard), Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12.

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## Young actress in 'Kit Kittredge' says Bible is her favorite book

BY MARIA WIERING  
 CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Brieanne Jansen is like a lot of other 11-year-old girls. She enjoys writing stories and singing, and she calls herself a "bookworm."

This gregarious girl's favorite read is the Bible, especially the Psalms. Now Brieanne is adding acting to her list of loves after finishing her first major motion picture, "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl."

She auditioned for the part on a whim; her only previous acting experience was in a 45-minute Christmas play at her Presbyterian church.

"I was ecstatic," she said of hearing she got a part.

She already was a fan of the American Girl books, a series about American girls living during significant historical events.

A native of Ontario, in Canada, Brieanne moved with her family to California in 2001. Nineteen days after the move, her family was held hostage in their 600-square-foot studio apartment by a drug runner evading the police.

The total trust she placed in God during the situation's terrible 45-minute duration deepened her faith and that of her family, she said.

"I really believe that God was there protecting us," she said.

The movie's titular character, Kit Kittredge, is a 10-year-old budding journalist growing up during the Great Depression. She employs her investigative skills to clear the name of a homeless friend after he's accused of theft.

Brieanne's character, Frances Stone, is only in about five minutes of the movie, she said.

"Frances is like me, where she can be strong, but she's a little bit anxious some of the time," Brieanne said.



CNS PHOTO BY PICTUREHOUSE

Madison Davenport, Abigail Breslin and Brieanne Jansen star in a scene from the movie "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl."

In the midst of Frances' efforts to secure her younger sister's membership in Kit's treehouse club, the Stone family loses their Cincinnati home to foreclosure and has to eat at a soup kitchen.

Realizing that the plight of Frances' family in 1934 mirrored those whose homes went into foreclosure in California, Brieanne began a campaign in April to raise \$10,000 and 1,000 pounds of food for her local Second Harvest food bank.

She has asked fellow Canadian-Americans and actors to give to the food bank, which serves San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, ranked second and third in the nation for the highest number of foreclosed homes, she said.

Currently, Brieanne is looking for an agent who will honor her commitment only to act in movies depicting Christian values and moral character, she said.

"Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" can teach girls to work hard and keep hope, Brieanne said.

"I think girls should go to this movie because it's a great movie. ... No matter what you're looking at in the movie, it will teach you a lesson on something," she said.

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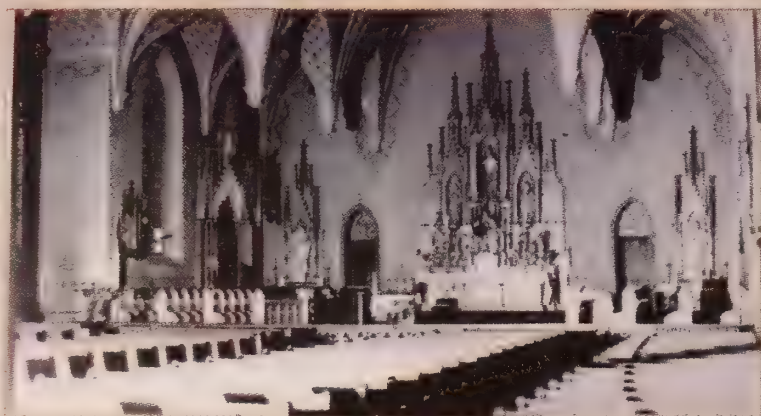
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## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

*For the month of July, here are some historical facts about Belmont Abbey Basilica.*



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Pictured is Belmont Abbey Basilica in Belmont circa 1950.

### Significant Dates

- April 21, 1876: Benedictine Father Herman Wolf arrives at the former Caldwell Farm in Gaston County with two students to establish a priory and school. The newly founded institution is a mission of St. Vincent Abbey in Pennsylvania and officially is placed under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians in 1878.
- Nov. 9, 1884: Maryhelp Priory is elevated from priory to abbey status, thereby making it independent of St. Vincent Abbey (now Archabbey) in Pennsylvania.
- July 14, 1885: Benedictine Father Leo Haid is elected first abbot of Maryhelp Abbey.
- July 1, 1888: Abbot Haid is consecrated bishop by Cardinal James Gibbons and becomes the third and final vicar apostolic of North Carolina.
- April 11, 1894: Maryhelp Church is dedicated by Cardinal Gibbons.
- June 8, 1910: Belmont Abbey is elevated to rank of Abbatia Nullius Diocesis, the only abbey in the United States ever to hold that rank. An Abbatia Nullius is outside the jurisdiction of any diocese and therefore its abbot enjoys a dignity like a bishop and its church is elevated to the rank of cathedral.
- Jan. 1, 1977: Belmont Abbey's Abbatia Nullius is suppressed and Maryhelp Church loses its status as a cathedral.
- July 27, 1998: Maryhelp Church, Belmont Abbey elevated to rank of basilica.
- March 22, 1999: Maryhelp Church solemnly proclaimed the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

### Interesting Facts

— Father Jeremiah O'Connell, a missionary priest who was once pastor of historic St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly, bought and donated the land known as the Caldwell Farm to the Benedictine monks of St. Vincent Abbey (Pennsylvania) through then-Bishop James Gibbons.

— St. Katherine Drexel donated \$4,000 for the construction of the Belmont Abbey Basilica.

### Abbey Motto

"In his first month at the abbey, [Abbot Leo] Haid happened upon a brother about to fell a cedar near the front entrance of the chapel. The abbot stopped the effort with the Latin command 'crescat,' which means 'let it grow.' The 'crescat tree,' as it came to be known, then stood until 1960 when lightning finished what the brother had started.

"The image of the tree was impaled in 1885 on the abbot's and the abbey's first escutcheon, and 'crescat' was designated Maryhelp's motto."

— Benedictine Father Pascal Baumstein, "My Lord of Belmont," p. 71

### Maryhelp Church

"[Father Felix] Hintemeyer told [Abbot Leo] Haid to start building the grand brick church he really wanted, knowing he could not possibly meet the expense, but having the courage to trust God to provide. ... And so, at Hintemeyer's insistence, Leo Haid embarked on the construction of a sixty thousand dollar 'cathedral,' the largest Roman Catholic Church in the state, with no earthly means of financing it."

— Father Baumstein, "My Lord of Belmont," p. 115

### Description of Maryhelp Church interior after construction

"The arched ceiling was painted light blue, and covered with gold fleurs-de-lis. The sanctuary ... was bordered by a gilt railing of 'butternut' with an 'Episcopal throne, 26 feet in height, approached by three oak steps. ... The main altar, and this too was of gilt oak, stood 36 feet in height and included three niches with blue ceilings dotted with stars...' and '...at its highest pinnacle an arresting statue of Maryhelp in support of the Christ child. ... Maryhelp was flanked by images of Saints Joachim and Anne. Scholastica and Benedict had altars to the side."

— Father Baumstein, "My Lord of Belmont," pgs. 122-123

## Mercy Sister Mary Annette McBennett: 1919-2008

*Sister remembered for loyalty, devotion, ministry*

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Annette McBennett died at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont June 9. She was 88.

Received as a Sister of Mercy Feb. 2, 1938, Sister McBennett was in her 70th year as a Sister of Mercy.

A Mass of Christian burial was held June 12 at Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel, with burial following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister McBennett was born Sept. 10, 1919 in Fayetteville, N.C. Her secular name was Alice Annette McBennett; she took the name Sister Mary Annette upon entering the Sisters of Mercy in 1937.

Sister McBennett received a bachelor's degree in education from the Catholic University of America in 1946 and a master's degree in library science in 1956.

From 1940 to 1946, she ministered at schools in the Charlotte and Newton Grove areas. She was then assigned — along with Mercy Sisters Mary Louise Wiesenforth and Mary Inez Underwood, her fellow pioneer members from the Sisters of Mercy N.C. Regional Community — to Guam, charged with establishing a new foundation there.

"My ministry on Guam began immediately following World War II and it was both a delight and an eye-opener," she said.

She returned to the United States in 1950 and, until 1956, ministered in schools in the Charlotte, Wilmington and Asheville areas.

From 1956 to 1960, Sister McBennett served as novice directress for the Regional Community. From 1960 to 1978, she taught and served as campus library director at Sacred Heart College.

She served as chairperson and secretary-treasurer for the North Carolina unit of the Catholic Library Association, and has been a member of various library scholarly associations. She held the position of parliamentarian of the Sisters Senate for the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972, and gave numerous talks around the country and wrote for several publications.

In 1978, Sister McBennett received her certificate in pastoral care from St. Mary's Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.



Mercy Sister Mary Annette McBennett

In 1979, she began the Pastoral Care Department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville. In 1985, she started the same department at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.

In 1996, she returned to Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont to institute a reading room and library for the residents. Until her death, Sister McBennett continued her pastoral care by visiting and praying with the Sisters and family members who reside in the Marian Center.

Her lively sense of humor, loyalty and devotion to her many dear friends were certainly keynotes in her community life.

She is survived by her regional community and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012-4805.

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FROM THE COVER

The relics of six Mexican priests who were martyred for the faith during the religious persecution in Mexico in the 1920s are seen on display at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, Colo., May 7, 2006. The relics will visit cities throughout the country — including four in the Diocese of Charlotte this month — in a tour promoted by the Knights of Columbus.



CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

# Relics of martyrs to visit churches throughout N.C.

RELICS, from page 1

25 Mexican martyrs canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000 began a pilgrimage in Mexico City in September 2005 to mark the centennial of the Knights of Columbus in Mexico.

Since then, the relics have visited churches all over the United States.

"This pilgrimage seeks to promote knowledge of and devotion to the Knights of Columbus priest martyrs of Mexico and all those who sacrificed their lives for their faith during the Mexican persecution," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a 2006 interview.

"This pilgrimage seeks to promote knowledge of and devotion to the Knights of Columbus priest martyrs ...."

— Carl Anderson

Each of the six whose relics were displayed — Sts. Pedro de Jesus Maldonado, Luis Batis Sainz, Jose Maria Robles Hurtado, Mateo Correa Megallanes, Miguel del la Mora de la Mora and Rodrigo Aguilar Aleman — was a priest and a member of the Knights of Columbus. All 25 were martyred during the persecution of the church in Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s.

During that time thousands of missionaries were expelled from Mexico, Catholic seminaries and schools were closed, and the church was forbidden to own property. Priests and laypeople were told to denounce Jesus and their faith in public — if they refused, they faced not just punishment, but torture and even death.

The relics are scheduled to arrive in North Carolina July 11. The pilgrimage will begin in Raleigh July 12 and will include stops in both the dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte.

The relics will arrive with a supreme escort and will be accompanied by a past state deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

Each church will host the relics for one day only.

Scheduled visits at churches in the Diocese of Charlotte include Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville July 14, St. Aloysius Church in Hickory July 15, St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis July 16 and Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe July 17.

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the six Mexican martyrs, visit [www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/news/releases/detail/27808.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/news/releases/detail/27808.html).



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Someone else will 'a-sweepy'

*Volunteers who clean up parish are serving God, bringing heavenly order*

"Someone else will a-sweepy!" That's what our maintenance man, Thomas Paul (T.P.) usually says when he encounters a mess someone left behind.

When he says it, he is not too happy — because the "someone else" who will "a-sweepy" is usually T.P.

Some people make a habit of leaving church events early, always assuming that the cleaning up will magically get done by someone else.

They are right about that, of course. But it will fall on the same loyal and sturdy parishioners who always stay around for the cleanup.

A Dominican priest I know says it is no different in religious orders. Some people are always at the service of the community while others freeloader.

"The true measure of a community man is whether or not they are around for the cleanup," he says.

Like most Catholic parishes, we have a lot of cleaning up. We have five big buildings, acres and acres of lawn, a parking lot, cemetery and athletic fields.

Our buildings are full of kitchens and bathrooms. We have six kitchens and, at last count, 16 bathrooms of varying sizes.

We also have locker rooms, dressing rooms, sacristies and nurseries. Every room has a closet. Every building has a storage shed. Some buildings have basements. It is a law of nature that every empty space fills up with junk.

It takes a lot of community men and women to keep things in order. Fortunately, I have a lot of helpers. More than 250 people give at least one hour per week to our parish, much of it in cleaning, raking, pruning, weeding, cutting, polishing, washing, ironing and, of course, sweeping.

We could not function without every goodhearted volunteer.

I figure even the pastor should take a turn at the cleaning. It is good for the soul.

Every now and then I go on a cleaning binge and clean out some closet or pantry. This usually happens when I have a writing deadline.

My secretary says she knows when I have an article due because I start organizing the parish library.

Cleaning things is the time-tested cure for writer's block. Somebody once asked Hemingway how to start writing a novel. He said, "First thing, defrost the refrigerator."

Anyway, I think nothing is as spiritually cleansing as a good scrubbing of the kitchen floor. It is therapy.

Sometimes when you open a closet or refrigerator door, you see the need

### Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



for cleansing grace.

God is in order. After all, it is God who brings order out of chaos in the creation in Genesis. As Alexander Pope remarked, "Order is heaven's first law."

Volunteers who serve their fellow parishioners by staying around for the cleanup are serving God too. They are bringing heavenly order.

My Dominican friend also says, "Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something."

The most important thing I can do is thank people for their efforts, especially considering active volunteers don't usually expect to be thanked, and they seldom complain.

Usually it is people who seldom go to church who complain. It is the weddings-and-funerals Catholic who is the first to complain that the toilet paper has run out in the ladies room or the kids have spilled the hand soap on the floor.

Things don't have to be sterile, just in good order. It takes a little effort from everyone.

Next time you go to a parish event, look at the pile of trash generated. Then hang around for the cleanup and see how much work it is.

Don't walk out thinking, "Someone else will a-sweepy!"

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

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## The point is not the prestige pregnancy pact

*Attention should be focused on cause, not outcome, of story*

If you hear a giant clacking sound, it might be thousands of computer keyboards as would-be script writers work furiously to be the first to create a TV "Movie of the Week" based on the events in a New England fishing town.

A title could be "Prestige Pregnancy Pact."

The background, of course, is the statistics-defying increase in pregnancies among sophomore girls at a Gloucester, Mass., high school. The 17 reported pregnancies are four times as many as had occurred at the school the previous year.

What thrust the story into international headlines was an article in Time magazine in which high school principal Joseph Sullivan said eight of the girls made a pact to become pregnant and raise their babies together.

What is interesting is how the story played out: civic face-saving, semantic arguments, high school birth control, even a little bit of anti-Catholic bigotry.

Everything was a matter for discussion and concern — except the most important thing: the cause.

No one disputes as fact that 17 girls at the high school became pregnant this year. A Time magazine reporter looking into that aberration talked with Sullivan, who said several students sought pregnancy tests several times.

When told the results, "some girls seemed more upset when they weren't pregnant than when they were," said Sullivan, who was prompted to talk with the 17 students.

That word — pact — did it. Rather than concern about an exponential increase in teenage pregnancies, the town politicians zeroed in on "pact": Was there or wasn't there one?

Dictionaries define "pact" as to agree to or to contract, to be a formal agreement such as between nations.

News organizations flooded Gloucester with cable, broadcast trucks and satellite dishes.

The mayor convened a closed-door meeting with city, school and health leaders. Next she appeared before banks of microphones, saying there is absolutely no evidence of "any planned blood oath bond to become pregnant."

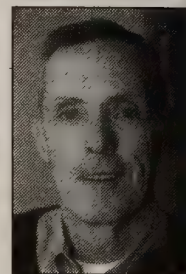
There's no evidence of a "pact"? These are early teens, not United Nations delegates. These are eight girls — none older than 16 — with the planning skills of cocker spaniel puppies who no doubt did not sit at a table and execute any sort of formal agreement.

The fact is that there are 17 unwed soon-to-be mothers who may be pawns in arguments over school health policies.

The school health clinic is administered by the town hospital. The school's nurse practitioner, after administering 150 pregnancy tests, conferred with the pediatrician. Both

### Consider This

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



advocated providing contraceptives without parental consent. The hospital director rejected this idea; the two resigned in protest.

Then there is this in an Associated Press article: "The heavily Roman Catholic town, which has a large Italian and Portuguese population, has long been supportive of teen mothers. The high school has a day care center for students and employees."

Wink, wink, nudge in the side: "Oh those fanatically fertile Catholic types."

Whether or not there was a pact is irrelevant. How closely this mirrors some Hollywood fiction is irrelevant. Political arguments over the school health policies are irrelevant.

Parents there have a profound lack of understanding of their children. They should look to reasons for the daughters' low self-esteem, for creating and allowing such misunderstanding of parenting rather than posturing in the media about the meaning of a pact.

Gloucester was the home port of the fishing boat featured in the "The Perfect Storm," a movie about a confluence of weather factors that came together to create disaster.

The present situation is not imitating Hollywood, which has yet to imagine such a plot.

The Gloucester situation more closely resembles "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" — or to ruin several.



# The blessed Eucharist

*Jesus helps us produce rich, abundant good fruit*

Many Catholics who receive holy Communion weekly do not have a clear conviction that the risen Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.

They don't seem to connect with him on the level of true faith.

By reducing the reception of holy Communion to a pious ritual with no belief in the central meaning of this holy sacrament, they miss so much.

In one of Thomas Merton's final letters written before his journey to the Orient, from which he never returned, he expressed his views on the Eucharist in this way:

"As for the topic of the Real Presence, I am living in a hermitage where I now have the Blessed Sacrament, which is a great blessing, a very great help in prayer and meditation; in fact a quite indescribable privilege.

"The people who dilute the idea of the Real Presence, it seems to me, are the ones who have forgotten the meaning of prayer" (The Tablet of London, December 1968).

"Every commitment to holiness, every activity aimed at carrying out the church's mission, every work of pastoral planning must draw the strength it needs from the eucharistic mystery," wrote Pope John Paul II in "Ecclesia eucharistica."

"In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit,

we have the love of the Father," he wrote. "Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our deficiency?"

St. Paul saw the meaning of the Eucharist so clearly: "In him we live and breathe and have our being."

This sacrament of the church confirms the immanence of God. With Christ's presence among us, we learn that the Eucharist is infinitely more than a pious symbol; it is truly the body and blood of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine.

Jesus shares his very life with us in a most intimate, life-giving way.

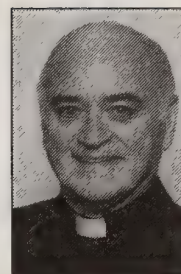
The fathers of the Second Vatican Council back in the 1960s consisted of about 2,000 bishops from all over the world. In union with Pope Paul VI they proclaimed the Eucharist "the source and summit of the Christian life" ("Lumen Gentium").

The section of another encyclical on the Eucharist that really appeals to me — Pope John Paul's "Ecclesia de Eucharistia" — says:

"It is also a source of joy to note that Catholic ministers, in certain particular cases, are able to administer the sacrament of the Eucharist, penance and the anointing of the sick, to Christians who are not in full communion with the Catholic Church, but who greatly desire to receive these sacraments, and freely

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



request them, and manifest the faith, which the Catholic Church professes."

The Eucharist is also called the "Bread of Angels;" but you don't have to be an angel to draw strength from this heavenly food.

What you do have to be, however, is a true believer in the real presence of the risen Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.

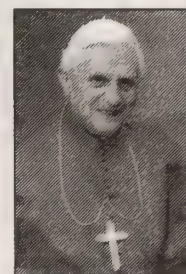
Some reason falsely that we don't need a personal savior or a belief system in order to be spiritually alive. To me, the idea that you can cut the branch off the vine and still hope to produce grapes makes no sense.

We Catholics are truly privileged people. Let us be on guard to profess our true faith in this precious gift. Jesus Christ comes to help us produce rich, abundant good fruit.

## Pope says St. Paul represents sublime figure for today's Christians

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



*Editor's note: The pope is on his summer break. This is from last week's audience.*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To learn about Christ and how to live the right way, today's Christians should look to St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI said at his last weekly general audience before his summer break.

St. Paul the Apostle represents a "sublime and almost inimitable figure" who serves as an example because of his "total dedication to the Lord and his church, as well as his great openness to humanity and its cultures," the pope said July 2.

In his first audience after the June 28 opening of the Pauline year, the pope said the catechesis would be the first of a series dedicated to learning more about this "stimulating figure." The jubilee year will run until June 29, 2009, in commemoration of the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle's birth.

The weekly general audiences are scheduled to resume Aug. 13.

*Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Sunday, the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, marked the beginning of a year dedicated to the figure and teaching of the Apostle Paul. Today's audience begins a new series of catecheses aimed at understanding more deeply the thought of St. Paul and its continuing relevance.

Paul, as we know, was a Jew, and consequently a member of a distinct cultural minority in the Roman Empire. At the same time, he spoke Greek, the language of the wider Hellenistic culture, and was a Roman citizen.

Paul's proclamation of the Risen Christ, while grounded in Judaism, was marked by a universalist vision and it was facilitated by his familiarity with three cultures. He was thus able to draw from the spiritual richness of contemporary philosophy, and Stoicism in particular, in his preaching of the Gospel.

The crisis of traditional Greco-Roman religion in Paul's time had also fostered a greater concern for a personal experience of God. As we see from his sermon before the Areopagus in Athens (cf. Acts 17:22ff.), Paul was able to appeal to these currents of thought in his presentation of the Good News.

Against this broad cultural background, Paul developed his teaching, which we will explore in the catecheses of this Pauline Year.

# Oh, that rainbow!

*Symbol of God's covenant often appears when most needed*

Anyone aware of the honors given to Tim Russert, the longtime moderator of Meet the Press, after his untimely death on June 20 had to be impressed with how he was repeatedly characterized: "He was a faithful, devout Catholic."

Similar accolades were heard subsequently at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington: Tim Russert had remained ever devoted to his Catholic faith, his Jesuit training, and his family and friends.

This good man left us with a clear reminder of what a joy and a privilege it was for him to be a Catholic.

Then there was one last gift witnessed by family and friends leaving Russert's memorial. There in the sky was a large, beautiful rainbow arching over the buildings.

From the comments it was evident that some saw this as some kind of heavenly sign about Russert's new homeland!

Oh, that rainbow! Seeing it on the screen immediately took me back to the day my seven brothers and sisters and I drove through torrential rain to the cemetery after the burial Mass for our father. We were very grateful when the rain suddenly stopped when we got to the site.

We encircled Dad's coffin, each leaving a flower. Suddenly, the sun burst through the clouds, revealing the most extraordinary rainbow any of us had ever seen! We believed it meant Dad was with us.

About 10 years ago Claire Twitchell, a reader of my columns, sent me a story that emphasized again for me that there may be more to rainbows than a weather phenomenon. She wrote that her family had been given a "gift" after her granddaughter Rebecca was killed in a car crash.

Claire related that Rebecca's mom, Terece, had always called her daughter her "rainbow girl." She even had a big picture of a rainbow Rebecca had drawn stuck to the refrigerator door with a rainbow magnet.

Terece asked her daughter's spirit to help her get through this ordeal by sending her a sign — a rainbow — to let her know she was all right.

Well, not only did the family get a rainbow the next day, it was the most magnificent rainbow they had ever seen — a great big band of colors that came down out of the clouds. Every color was represented, vivid and bright, intensifying as the family watched, Claire said.

Rainbows have a sacred origin,

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



going all the way back to the Book of Genesis, which tells how God told Noah that the rainbow would be the sign of the covenant established between himself and "every living thing found on earth":

"I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant" (9:13-15).

Poet James Weldon Johnson penned a picture of this promise:

"And God smiled again,  
"And the rainbow appeared,  
"And curled itself around his shoulder."

It's not hard for me to believe that curled within God's arms — and the rainbow — are his good people who have traveled to him before us.





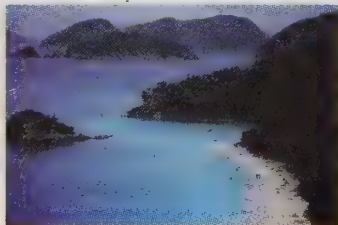
CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte shares some personal stories of his working relationship and friendship with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta during the 13th annual eucharistic congress of the Atlanta Archdiocese, held at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, Ga., in late June.

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# Strengthened in faith

## *Eucharistic Congress attendees embrace the 'Living Bread'*

BY ANDREW NELSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

COLLEGE PARK, Ga. — Carlos Garcia believes that “everyone who comes with an open heart” to the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s annual eucharistic congress “leaves differently.”

“It’s better than going to any sports arena. You feel the love and the presence of the Lord,” said Garcia, a computer administrator at Christ the King Cathedral in Atlanta, Ga.

The archdiocese’s 13th annual congress drew 20,000 to 30,000 Catholics to the cavernous Georgia International Convention Center in College Park June 20-21.

The convention center mirrored the diversity of the 750,000 people who pray regularly in the 100 churches and missions in the 69-county archdiocese. The center’s hallways were jammed with people speaking English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and other languages. All had come to hear speakers and join in worship services.

The congress theme was “I Am the Living Bread.” And Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory reminded people in his morning homily June 21 that bread is a food staple across the world.

“This common substance that exists in many and varied forms throughout the human community was chosen to serve as a symbol of God’s bounty and his compassion for his people,” he said.

The congress agenda included a healing Mass June 20 and adoration and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament June 21. Workshop sessions were organized into several tracks.

Speakers included Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte, N.C., who shared personal stories of his working relationship and friendship with Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Also speaking was Helen Alvare, an associate professor of family law at George Mason University in Virginia.

She said two of the “essential sacraments” of the church are the Eucharist and marriage. And the relationship between the two is tied together with self-sacrifice, mutual giving and faithfulness, she said.

“These are not theoretical

sacraments; these are not theories about how to live life or how to encounter God,” she said.

Alvare, a former pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops, said marriage and family life are key issues the culture and the church are facing.

On the debate surrounding same-sex marriage, Alvare said the Catholic Church approaches the question from an understanding of marriage, not the morality of homosexuality.

She said many of the court decisions on same-sex marriage wrongly state that marriage has no relationship to human nature, human bodies or the bearing of children, she said.

Speaker Father Ricardo Bailey, the chaplain at Blessed Trinity High School in Roswell, Ga., said the Eucharist “changes us, it empowers us, but most of all, it causes us to go out and transform the world.”

“That’s why in essence we are here, to celebrate who we are, whose we are, and what it is God calls us to become,” the priest said.

About 500 volunteers worked during the two days of the congress. Organizers needed 10,000 hosts to distribute for Communion.

They needed 128 collection baskets, 250 banner stands, 12 wax candles for the altar, and a case of water bottles for purifying the chalices after Mass, among many other things.

Msgr. Joe Corbett, a vicar general for the archdiocese and a key congress organizer, said his favorite part of the event is seeing the tremendous crowds show up year after year.

“The verse from Romans (that says) ‘So we, though many, are one body in Christ’ kept singing in my ears on Friday evening and all day Saturday, as I met parishioners and clergy from some of the many parishes and school communities I visit as vicar general,” he said. “It was a beautiful thing.”

### EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Diocese of Charlotte’s fourth annual Eucharistic Congress will take place at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3-4. For more information, visit [www.goeucharist.com](http://www.goeucharist.com).

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## Considering comprehensive reform

Justice for Immigrants  
national director  
discusses details, myths

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Catholics will spearhead the next movement toward just immigration reform.

That was Antonio Cube's prediction when he talked about "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform."

Cube is national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign.

He spoke July 8-10 at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, St. Eugene Church in Asheville, Living

## World Youth Day, down under



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI waves to pilgrims during the World Youth Day vigil at Royal Randwick Racecourse in Sydney, Australia, July 19.

Pope tells Australians  
of God's plan for  
creation, people

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SYDNEY, Australia — In the longest-lasting and longest-distance trip of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI spoke to Australians and to young people from around the world — including pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte — about God's plan for all creation, but especially for people.

The July 12-21 trip included several days of rest as well as meetings with representatives of Australia's government, Catholic Church and native fauna.

Relaxing July 13-16 at an Opus Dei-run center outside Sydney, the pope was treated to a visit from representatives of Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo, including a koala bear, a

See WYD, page 8

See REFORM, page 5

## Building bridges

Charlotte-area Knights construct  
handicap-accessible ramp

CHARLOTTE — A group of Charlotte-area Knights of Columbus recently completed a handicap-accessible ramp for a local Catholic man.

Fourteen volunteers from Knights councils at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe and St. Philip Neri Church in Fort Mill, S.C., as well as St. Matthew Church parishioners, all helped construct the ramp May 17-18.

Installed at the home of John Mullis, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, the ramp's construction was accomplished through the Knights' Operation Exodus program.

"John Mullis and his family have been very pleased with the use they get out of his ramp," said Robert Wilcocks, Operation Exodus director.

See KNIGHTS, page 12

## A community committed to caring for its own

Doctor opens clinic to  
serve uninsured poor

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

FRANKLIN — Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

When Dr. Carlos Vargas opened the Perpetual Health Community-Supported Family

See DOCTOR, page 6



COURTESY PHOTO

John Mullis (right), a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, is pictured with volunteers of Knights of Columbus' Operation Exodus, who built a handicap-accessible ramp for him May 17-18.

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Parishioners help needy,  
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Lennon a fan of Christ

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## A BUZZ ABOUT CHURCH



CNS PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CRIMMINS

Chuck Crimmins displays bees June 20 at Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Ark., after they had been resettled from the guttering atop the northeast corner of the Cathedral of St. Andrew's apse wall in Little Rock, Ark. Cathedral maintenance supervisor John Hodge, whose father-in-law was a beekeeper, said he had never seen bees nest that high in the air, about 30 feet off the ground.

## Beekeeper has sweet success moving bees from cathedral to new home

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — Unlikely though it may be, about 10,000 honeybees made a home for themselves at Little Rock's Catholic cathedral in the rain gutters atop the apse wall.

Many might think these new parishioners were unwelcome, but, in fact, staff members at the Cathedral of St. Andrew went out of their way to make sure the bees found a new residence at Heifer Ranch in Perryville.

By mid-July, after about a month in their new home, the cathedral's bees were growing into a stable colony, according to Chuck Crimmins, garden and forestry coordinator at the ranch, one of five learning centers for Heifer International.

The nonprofit international organization, based in Little Rock, works to end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance and sustainability.

On May 27 John Hodge, cathedral maintenance supervisor, discovered the bees in the gutters, which are about 30 feet above the ground. Hodge, whose father-in-law was a beekeeper, said he had never seen bees nest that high in the air, much less in an urban area like downtown Little Rock.

He became concerned for the bees and called several agencies for help. He eventually reached Crimmins, whose job includes serving as ranch beekeeper.

Crimmins went to the cathedral, climbed a ladder to get a closer look and was amazed at what he saw: At least

10,000 bees had "eight or 10 frames of honeycomb already drawing out, full of honey and baby bees."

Once bees colonize, "they're not going to leave. They had changed from looking for a home to saying, 'This is home,'" said Crimmins, who is a member of St. John Latin Mass Community in North Little Rock.

He needed to use a cherry-picker lift borrowed from a parishioner to go after them.

Early in the morning June 13, he and cathedral maintenance man Scott Brecht, clothed in protective jackets, veils and gloves, took a 10-framed wooden beehive box up in the lift and began dislodging sections of honeycomb and attaching them to the wooden frames inside the box.

They wanted to preserve what the bees had already built and encourage them to continue the process inside the frames.

After they finished, he and several onlookers enjoyed a sweet snack by sucking honey out of the excess honeycomb.

At the ranch the bees have permanently attached their honeycombs to the frames and Crimmins has stacked another 10-frame box onto the first.

He hopes to give the first batch of honey from the cathedral's bees to Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock this fall.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's his honey," he said, and they're "his bees."

## No state charges in Charities abortion case; federal inquiry ongoing

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Herring said he will not bring charges against a Catholic Charities worker who signed a consent form for an abortion performed on a 16-year-old Guatemalan in foster care.

Herring said July 16 the Commonwealth Catholic Charities employee and others working with her believed they had the authority to sign the consent form. Virginia law requires that a parent, legal guardian or person acting in the place of a parent sign the consent form before a minor receives an abortion.

Although the Charities staff member did not have legal authority to sign the form, there was no criminal intent, Herring said. "She truly believed she was doing an appropriate thing at the time."

Meanwhile, the inspector general for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was exploring whether any federal laws were violated by the abortion. The use of federal funds to

pay for abortion is prohibited, except in limited circumstances.

Kenneth Wolfe, deputy director of the Office of Public Affairs in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, said July 18 that the inspector general's investigation was continuing and he could not comment on the Richmond case until that was completed.

The four Commonwealth Catholic Charities employees who helped the minor with the abortion or with obtaining a contraceptive device have been fired, and an employee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services charged with supervising them was suspended.

Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond apologized "for the loss of the life of one of the most vulnerable among us" and said "the guilt and depression that many of us experience as a result of the behavior of a few is something that we will bear for a long time to come."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "Finding God in Our Brokenness: A Journey Through Biblical Wisdom Literature" will be presented by Father Joseph Koterski on Friday, Aug. 1, 12 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St. Parking is available in the lot on the opposite side of Church St. This event is sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life program and Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services. It is free and open to the public. Call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail [sabeason@charlottediocese.org](mailto:sabeason@charlottediocese.org) to register. For more information, visit [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org).

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry to help people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Deacon Jim Hamrik at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1040; or Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 or e-mail [jrueckel@earthlink.com](mailto:jrueckel@earthlink.com).

CHARLOTTE — Pray the rosary at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7 p.m. All are welcome to participate in this sacred tradition. For more information, call Juanita Thompson at (704) 536-0784.

CHARLOTTE — There will be a Mass in Polish on July 27 at 3 p.m. in the Daily Mass Chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The Mass will be preceded by confessions from 2 to 3 p.m. Questions, call the parish office at (704) 543-7677.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation.

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A holy hour is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A Taizé prayer service is held the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Taizé is a meditative prayer which mixes simple song, silence and Scripture. For more information, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A rosary of intercession for priests is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

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FROM THE VATICAN

Newly inaugurated Vatican agency regulates workers' health, safety

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A newly inaugurated Vatican agency is dedicated to regulating and overseeing workers' health and safety.

Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo, president of the commission governing Vatican territory, presided over a July 21 ceremony blessing the Vatican safety inspectors' new headquarters. The offices are part of a total revamping of how the Vatican protects and safeguards the rights, health and safety of people who work on Vatican territory.

In December the Vatican announced a new law to improve worker safety and rights. Most Vatican regulations follow Italian norms, but the Vatican wanted to cut bureaucracy and customize rules to take into account the Vatican's unique situation, said Gianluigi Marrone, a Vatican City judge.

The law called for the creation of a new agency specifically dedicated to

worker safety, he said in an interview published July 23 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

The agency was established this year and is staffed by a doctor, an engineer, an architect and an official from the Vatican's fire brigade.

The new regulations emphasize education and safety training courses and will require Vatican departments to compile and update lists of all workplace risks and workers' needs.

Some initiatives include providing better access for handicapped employees, and plans are in place to provide special rooms for nursing mothers and to help Vatican employees find day care for their children, Marrone said.

Workers' rights and safety regulations will extend to non-Vatican employees such as laborers working for outside companies subcontracted by the Vatican, the judge said.

and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

**BELMONT** — A summer film festival for adults will take place at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 North Main St., on Tuesday evenings through the month of July. On July 29 there will be a viewing of "Sophie Scholl," a cinematic presentation of her leadership in The White Rose, a German nonviolent resistance to the Nazi regime during WWII. All screenings will take place 7:30-9 p.m. in the conference room. No fees or registration required. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail [teallfleming@yahoo.com](mailto:teallfleming@yahoo.com).

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

**GREENSBORO** — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic, A Woman's Choice, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

**KERNERSVILLE** — A Why Catholic? workshop on "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist" will take place Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St. The workshop, presented by Renew International, is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, call Jeannine Martin (336) 294-4696, ext 225 at the parish office, or e-mail [jmartin@stpaulcc.org](mailto:jmartin@stpaulcc.org) no later than July 31.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

**HICKORY** — A charismatic Mass is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-994-0880 or e-mail [jgmoran@charter.net](mailto:jgmoran@charter.net).

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

**MOORESVILLE** — St. Therese Church Senior Fun & Games meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board

and card games. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572 for more information.

**SALISBURY** — Our Lady Rosary Makers of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

**MURPHY** — *Scripture Study of the Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters* is being offered now through the first week in August at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. The classes are held on Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m. Each session includes reflection on Scripture, commentary, daily questions and a brief synopsis. For more information, contact Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

**CLEMMONS** — "Finding God in Our Brokenness: A Journey Through Biblical Wisdom Literature" will be presented by Father Joseph Koterski on Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. in the family center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. This event is sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life program and Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services. It is free and open to the public. Call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail [sabeason@charlottediocese.org](mailto:sabeason@charlottediocese.org) to register. For more information, visit [www.cssnc.org](http://www.cssnc.org).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 4 (6 p.m.) Priests and seminarians cook out Bishop's Residence, Charlotte	Aug. 9 (9 a.m.) Mass for Crossroads walkers St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
Aug. 6 (10:30 a.m.) Discernment Day Mass St. Michael the Archangel Church, Gastonia	Aug. 9 (5 p.m.) Mass St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton

Vatican official: Ignoring Christian tradition like 'spiritual Alzheimer's'

LONDON (CNS) — A Vatican official told the world's Anglican bishops that ignoring Christian tradition and making decisions apart from the wider church are like degenerative diseases.

At the Lambeth Conference, where the Anglican bishops are struggling with such issues as the ordination of women, gay bishops and gay unions, Cardinal Ivan Dias appeared to allude to a "spiritual Alzheimer's" threatening to destroy the historical memory of the Anglican churches.

"Much is spoken today of diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," Cardinal Dias, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, told the plenary session in Canterbury July 23.

"By analogy, their symptoms can, at times, be found even in our own Christian communities," he said. "For example, when we live myopically in the fleeting present, oblivious of our past heritage and apostolic traditions, we could well be suffering from spiritual Alzheimer's."

"And when we behave in a disorderly manner, going whimsically our own way

without any coordination with the head or the other members of our community, it could be ecclesial Parkinson's," the cardinal said.

He added that the joint efforts of Anglicans and Catholics to spread the Christian faith depended on their "unity and cohesion."

This was the second time in less than a week that Vatican officials have made their concerns known to delegates at the July 16-Aug. 3 conference, held once every 10 years.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, earlier said internal divisions within the Anglican Communion "pose a further and grave challenge to the hope for full and visible unity that has been the longstanding goal of our joint ecumenical endeavor."

Earlier in July, the General Synod of the Church of England voted in favor of the ordination of women as bishops, following the examples of Anglican churches in the U.S., Scotland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

More controversial within the Anglican Communion is the ordination of homosexuals as bishops.



Freed French-Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt (center); her mother, Yolanda Pulecio; and son Lorenzo light candles in the grotto at the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France, July 12. The Catholic politician was abducted in 2002 while she was running for president of Colombia.

Former Colombian hostage makes pilgrimage to Lourdes sanctuaries

LOURDES, France (CNS) — Accompanied by her mother, sister and children, former Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt made a pilgrimage to the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes less than two weeks after she was freed from years in captivity.

Betancourt went to the Marian grotto at the shrine in the French Pyrenees July 12. Surrounded by police and pilgrims, she was greeted by Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes.

The Catholic politician prayed before a crowd of thousands in thanksgiving for her life and freedom. Betancourt was abducted in 2002 by the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia while she was running for president.

On July 2, the Colombian army staged a bloodless military operation and

liberated Betancourt and 14 others.

"Take care of those who are left behind me," Betancourt said, referring to the estimated 700 hostages still held in Colombia. "They need your strength, your hope and your life."

The politician said she had "tried to maintain dignity" by meditating and praying, despite being bound and beaten by her captors. She added that she hoped to travel to Rome in August to meet Pope Benedict XVI, who had made several appeals for her release.

"I have to do two things: forget and find spiritual peace, and be able to forgive. When I do this, I'll also have to recall my memories. But perhaps, in time, these won't be so painful."

Betancourt said she had made a rosary from buttons and old string during her captivity.



## Trucking charity from St. Therese Church



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRANK NASH

Parishioners of St. Therese Church in Mooresville fill up a truck with approximately 1,000 pounds of food donations for the Mooresville Christian Mission and the Mooresville Soup Kitchen June 15. Pictured are (from left) Dave Conklin, Trevor Conklin, Melanie Conklin, Erin Howard, Larry Howard, Camryn Howard, Madison Howard and Barbara Howard.

The parish Community Life Commission distributed grocery bags after Masses June 7-8 to be filled with donations.

## Spiritual support



COURTESY PHOTO

*Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, accepts a spiritual bouquet from members of the parish Respect Life Committee June 25. Spiritual bouquets comprised of roses and crucifixes blessed by Pope Benedict XVI were presented to all the priests serving at St. Matthew Church — Msgr. McSweeney, Father Patrick Cahill, Father Patrick Toole and Father Eugene Schelberg — in gratitude for their continuing support of the Respect Life Ministry and other pro-life issues.*

*Members of the parish Respect Life Committee had the crucifixes blessed during a papal audience at the Vatican May 14. Ministry members and their families had offered 530 rosaries; 1,333 prayers; and 43 eucharistic adoration hours for the priests to show gratitude for their support.*

## Special works produce sign



COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, stands with members of the parish S.W.A.T. (Special Works and Tasks) Team June 26 beside a sign installed outside the church June 23. The S.W.A.T. Team, a ladies organization, raised the funds for the new sign. Pictured (from left) are Father Kappes; MaryAnn Frohman, S.W.A.T. president; and S.W.A.T. members Jane Anklin, Joan Fesko, Ann Findsyz, Susan Wallace, Barbara Beuley and Mary Gaunt.



**Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of August**

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Rev. Msgr. Felix R. Kelaher	1998
Rev. John F. Parsons	1993

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# Justice for Immigrants director discusses details, myths

REFORM, from page 1

Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

Cube plans to return in the fall to speak in the southern and eastern parts of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Altogether, more than 200 people, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the diocese, attended the presentations. The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Hispanic Ministry and Catholic Social Services sponsored the program.

"I'm trying to get the word out (about comprehensive immigration reform), answer questions, debunk myths, and hopefully change some minds and hearts," Cube said.

The Justice for Immigrants campaign seeks to educate the public about church teaching on migration and immigrants, create political will for positive immigration reform, enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops, and organize Catholic networks to help qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

The bishops are not in favor of unlawful entry into the United States or amnesty for those undocumented immigrants already here. Rather, they seek comprehensive immigration reform, which has four provisions: a pathway to legalization for the undocumented, no deportation that splits families,

immigrants' home countries must address the root causes of why people leave, and America has the right to protect its borders.

The bishops specify that all four provisions must be enacted together because all four work together.

## Pathway to legalization

"The Catholic bishops are proposing an earned legalization for those in this country in an unauthorized status and who have built up equities and are otherwise admissible," the Justice for Immigrants campaign Web site states.

"Amnesty," as commonly understood, implies a pardon and a reward for those who did not obey immigration laws, creating inequities for those who wait for legal entry," it says.

"The bishops' earned legalization proposal provides a window of opportunity for undocumented immigrants who are already living in our communities and contributing to our nation to come forward, pay a fine and application fee, go through rigorous criminal background checks and security screenings, demonstrate that they have paid taxes and are learning English, and obtain a visa that could lead to permanent residency, over time," the site says.

Cube said that the fines might be as much as \$3,000 to \$9,000 per person, which they could pay in one to three years. These fines would finance the program, so that Congress wouldn't have to allocate other funds.

## Coming and going

When many undocumented



PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured (from left) with Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry; Brother Ricardo Greeley, Albemarle Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator; Antonio Cube, Justice for Immigrants national director; and Augustinian Father James Cassidy, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, after Cube's presentation at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte July 8.

immigrants are deported, they may take their U.S. citizen spouses and children with them, or they are separated from them for years while they attempt to obtain the documentation to return legally.

"The backlog of available visas for family members results in waits of five, 10, 15, and more years of waiting for a visa to become available," the Justice for Immigrants Campaign site says. "The bishops call for a reduction in the pending backlog and more visas available for family reunification purposes."

Many people migrate because they cannot provide for their families in their own countries. Comprehensive immigration reform calls for international efforts to help people stay home. "Trade, international economic aid, debt relief, and other types of economic policies should be pursued that result in people not having to migrate in desperation in order to survive," the Web site says.

When we talk about the greater good," Cube asked, "are we talking about just the United States or about our brothers and sisters all over the world?"

## Migration myths

One immigration myth is that restricting immigration will make the United States safer.

Yet, the Justice for Immigrants Campaign Web site states that, "Since 9/11, the myriad measures targeting immigrants in the name of national security have netted no terrorism prosecutions.

"In fact, several of these measures could have the opposite effect and actually make us less safe, as targeted communities of immigrants are afraid to come forward with information."

Among the myths about undocumented immigrants is that they don't pay taxes or social security, but Cube said this is not the case.

If an illegal immigrant presents an employer with identification, even a fake social security card, that employer is required to deduct social security and taxes from the person's pay. However, because the person is undocumented, he or she can't derive any benefits from government services.

"Upwards of \$6 billion a year is paid into social security by illegals, which is actually keeping social security in the black," Cube said. "If they become legal, they can only collect social security for the time they work after they become legal."

As has often been stated, America is an immigrant nation, but U.S. immigration law is a fairly recent development. The Alien and Sedition Acts, passed in 1798 and repealed or expired between 1800 and 1802, were rarely enforced. Earlier, laws barring entry into the United States focused on convicts and prostitutes.

"Entering the United States did not become a violation until Congress passed a law on March 4, 1929," the Justice for Immigrants campaign Web site states.

"Because of the lack of funding, Congress did not authorize or appropriate funds to enforce the law until the late 1940s. The beginning of our current immigration code, the Immigration and Nationality Act, was enacted in 1965," the site says.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, as Cube said, "Everyone can be more welcoming of each other. Be mindful that we're Catholic. Catholics have a long history of compassion."

## What can Catholics do to help with comprehensive immigration reform?

Antoinio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, suggests:

- When comprehensive immigration reform legislation comes before Congress, contact legislators to say you support it.
- Justice for Immigrants Campaign is working on homily notes for parish bulletins. If your parish uses them, read the information.

— Become educated about immigration. A good information source is the Justice for Immigrants Campaign Web site, [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org), which includes the U.S. and Mexican bishops' landmark pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope." Educating yourself will help you respond with correct information when others bring up myths and inaccuracies about immigration issues.

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# Doctor opens clinic to serve uninsured poor

DOCTOR, from page 1

Medicine clinic in Franklin July 1, that is exactly what he did.

Perpetual Health is a unique medical mission in that it provides quality medical care to the uninsured poor with medical costs subsidized through the annual fees of clinical benefactors.

"When I applied to medical school, this is what I had in mind," said Vargas, who earned his degree from the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "I always wanted to work in rural North Carolina to pay back the state that sponsored me," he said.

For Vargas, opening Perpetual Health is a dream come true because it gives him the opportunity to "practice medicine in a meaningful, professionally rewarding way and serve the poor," he said.

The clinic's mission statement, according to its Web site is "to obey Christ's command to serve the poor by providing free medical care to the uninsured of the Macon County, N.C. area through a self-sustaining, community-supported family medical practice."

"Dr. Vargas has been seeking to deepen his love for our Lord and engage the gift of his Catholic faith with greater zeal," said Father Matthew Kauth, Vargas' spiritual advisor and former pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

"This project was an answer to the desire in his heart," said Father Kauth.

Vargas' first formal step in initiating the clinic was to seek the approval and blessing of Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"I thought it showed both filial devotion as well as proper piety that he did not want to begin this project without this blessing," said Father Kauth.

Bishop Jugis sent his official blessing to Vargas in a letter Aug. 1, 2007.

"I am glad to know that you will practice medicine in a manner consistent with the Church's teachings," wrote Bishop Jugis. "You have my prayers for the success of this initiative."

Perpetual Health is only the second medical clinic of its kind nationwide and the first to serve a rural community.

Vargas modeled his clinic after the St. Luke's Family Practice in Modesto, Calif., run by Catholic doctors Robert Forester and Richard Heck.

"It was a delayed sort of epiphany," said Vargas of the moment he realized how the model worked.

"It's like all the pieces that I had aspired to and all of the things that I had done up to that point finally came together," he said.

"It resolved that fear of taking on a challenge where I had to choose between making a decent living and providing for my family or serving the poor. This is a model where I can do both," he added.

The clinic is subsidized by the annual fees of a limited number of benefactors who receive unlimited access to primary care services and help cover the costs of the uninsured.

"It was brought to our attention at the parish at the end of a Sunday Mass about a year ago," said benefactor Nick Murphy, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

It is a way to "meet our Gospel mandate to help our neighbor," said Murphy, who said he was made "aware of the great need for our less fortunate brothers and sisters to have quality medical care."

"I really agree with the idea of the model," said fellow benefactor Helen Jones who said she likes the idea of being able to "provide something for myself but at the same time be able to help people who are part of the working class poor that don't have medical insurance."

Vargas also relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers, as well as partnerships with various local resources and faith communities.

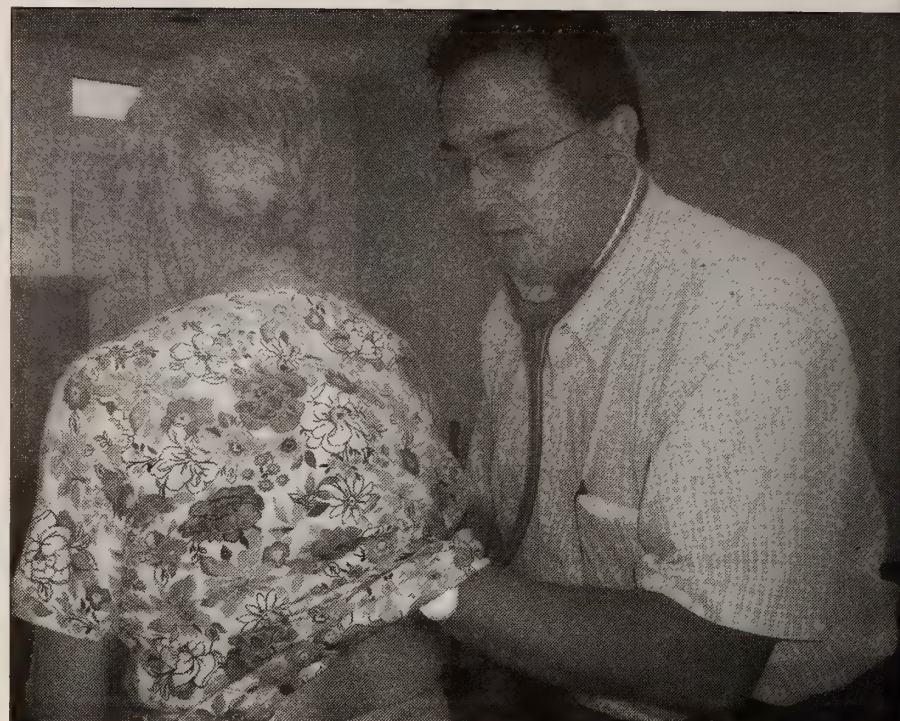
"Communities should be taking care of themselves," said Father Kauth, "that is to say, self-sustaining operations of charity motivated by a love for our Lord who offers us his grace and love in serving."

There are currently eight benefactors enrolled with Perpetual Health and approximately 10 recipients.

Vargas said he can take up to a maximum of 300 clinical benefactors per year, which will allow him to see up to 1,200 recipients.

There may be an unlimited number of supportive benefactors — ones who are not actual patients, but make donations to the clinic.

According to Vargas, interest in the model was initially high, but now that



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Carlos Vargas examines a patient at the Perpetual Health Community-Supported Family Medicine clinic in Franklin July 16. The clinic, which provides quality health care to the uninsured through subsidized fees and donations from benefactors, opened its doors July 1.

the clinic is up and running, enrollment of benefactors has been low.

"We made a commitment to serve the poor and we could hold onto that commitment and say 'well we want to serve the poor but we'll wait until we have at least 250 benefactors enrolled' so that we can pay ourselves full salaries," said Vargas.

"Or we can open July 1, wherever

we're at, and just start serving the poor," he said. "We decided not to wait."

"He's just an unusual physician in my opinion," said Murphy. "He's willing to do more for less if it will be beneficial to his community."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).



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Rev. Joseph Koterski, S.J., Ph.D.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. is a priest of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from St. Louis U. and a M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has received both the Graduate Student Faculty of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Student Faculty of the Year Award from Fordham University.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Helping people get to heaven

*Envoy Institute strives for evangelization on college campuses and beyond*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — “The devil tempted me in so many ways during my first year of college,” said Emily Eby, a rising sophomore at N.C. State University.

“I definitely had my moments of weakness and times where I was falling fast from the church,” she said.

Like Eby, many young people on college campuses throughout the country are faced with moral challenges that put their faith to the test on a daily basis.

Now there is a support system in place that will reinforce the teachings of the Catholic Church on college campuses and beyond.

The first ever Envoy Institute Conference, “Combating Relativism and the Culture of Death on College Campuses, in the Media and Beyond,” was held at Belmont Abbey College July 11-13.

“The goal of the first annual Envoy Institute Conference was to introduce the institute and make people aware, not only of our existence, but also of what we hope to accomplish — what our goals are,” said institute director Patrick Madrid.

Known for his work in Catholic apologetics, Madrid is the author of 12 books on Catholic themes and the publisher of Envoy Magazine, a journal of contemporary Catholic thought.

He founded the Envoy Institute last summer through a cooperative effort with Belmont Abbey College.

“I have high esteem for Belmont Abbey College and so one benefit, of course, is to be allied with a very prestigious and solidly Catholic institution of higher learning,” he said.

Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, agreed, noting that the presence of the Envoy Institute has been a positive addition to the Belmont Abbey community — “a community that seeks truth and lives in response to it,” he said.

“It is clear to me that the perfection, the excellence and the virtue we strive to attain at the Envoy Institute of Belmont

“The purpose of the Envoy Institute ... is to help people get to heaven.”

— Patrick Madrid

Abbey College is to glorify God and serve humanity through good stewardship of our gifts,” said Thierfelder.

The conference featured a powerhouse line-up of Catholic speakers who tackled the issue of relativism in relation to their particular fields of expertise.

“I believe everyone who spoke was equally effective in that he or she allowed God to work through him or her so, that when the entire weekend is reflected upon as a whole, every talk and message seems to flow together as one long story that God wanted to share with the participants,” said Eby.

Each of the speakers strived to achieve the goals of the institute — “to fortify Catholics so that they can be better Catholics and be more effective in sharing, explaining and defending the faith,” said Madrid.

Dr. Paul Thigpen, a convert to the Catholic faith, tackled the tough issue of evangelization with his presentation, “Evangelization by the Ounce,” which offered 10 simple suggestions for incorporating faith-sharing techniques into everyday situations.

Thigpen is a professor of theology at Southern Catholic College in Dawsonville, Ga., and editor of The Catholic Answer, a national bimonthly magazine that answers questions about Catholic faith, practice and history.

“Not even one ounce of evangelization was ever wasted if it was poured out on a thirsty soul,” he said.

Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America and editor-in-chief of the organization’s magazine, The American Feminist, addressed the culture of death in American society

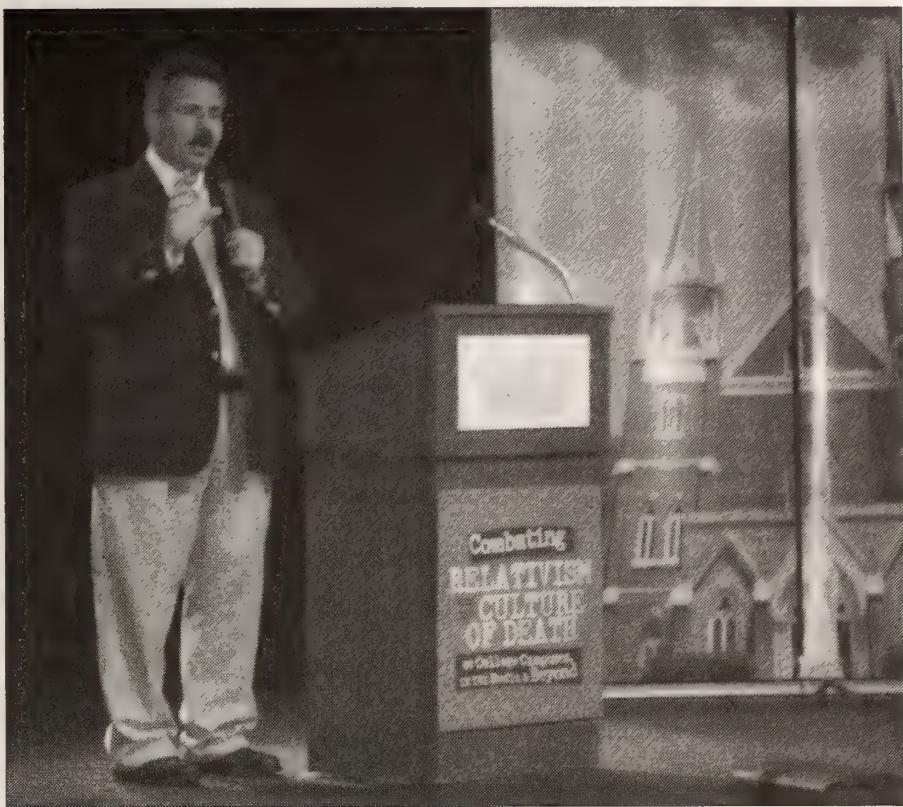


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Patrick Madrid speaks during the first Envoy Institute Conference at Belmont Abbey College July 11.

and traced the history of the feminist movement from a pro-life perspective.

“Feminism is a philosophy that embraces the rights of all human beings without exception,” she said. “The truth that every woman knows in her heart of hearts is that women deserve better than abortion.”

Hector Molina, director of the archdiocesan Office of the New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Mo., talked about how the core of evangelization is rooted within the history of Catholicism.

“Evangelization is a thoroughly Catholic thing,” he said. “It is an obligation for every single one of us to embrace and accept.”

Participants came away from the weekend armed with the tools needed to effectively convey their faith to others.

“For the first time in my life I am not only fearless of standing up for my faith, but am burning to share it with others,” said Eby.

“This conference provided the evidence and the arguments to defeat the lies, making it clear that there are objective truths and God wants us to know them,” said Kathy Schmugge, Family Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

“I left filled with the hope that with

the grace of God, we can bring light to the present culture and turn it around,” she said.

Although the Envoy Institute was initially set up to address the needs of Catholic students on college campuses, the conference itself was geared toward “Catholics of all ages,” according to Madrid.

“The purpose of the Envoy Institute at Belmont Abbey College, fundamentally, is to help people get to heaven,” he said.

“In the meantime we want them to have as good and full and as holy a life as a Catholic as possible,” he added.

Eby certainly came away from the conference with a new perspective.

“The Envoy Institute Conference has changed my life and re-ignited a passionate spiritual flame within me that about a year ago had almost been completely extinguished,” she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

## WANT MORE INFO?

Audio and visual recordings of the talks from the first Envoy Institute Conference will be available at [www.envoyinstitute.net](http://www.envoyinstitute.net).

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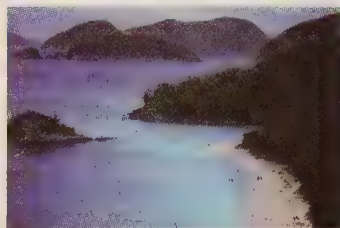


COURTESY PHOTO

The group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte stands across from the Sydney Opera House in Australia for World Youth Day July 15-20. Pictured (back row, from left) Deacon Mark Nash, Terry Aiken, Paul Kotlowski, Rose Ilderton, (front row, from left) Justin Bates, Megan Shelton, Thu Hong Nguyen, Diana Do, Chris Ilderton, Shey Eiland, Katie Phillips and Patricia Blanton.

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# Pope tells Australian

WYD, from page 1

wallaby joey and an echidna.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, papal spokesman, said the visit was the idea of Australian church officials; "they are rightly proud of the species that are found only here."

Once the public part of his trip began, Pope Benedict spent his days combining World Youth Day activities with elements of a pastoral visit to Australia.

Before he left Australia July 21, the pope celebrated a private Mass with four Australian victims of clerical sexual abuse and their families. In a small chapel inside St. Mary's Cathedral, the pope also spent time talking to and consoling the victims.

Two days earlier during a Mass at the cathedral, the pope apologized publicly to Australian victims of clerical sexual abuse.

The pope said, "I am deeply sorry for

the pain and suffering the victims have endured and I assure them that as their pastor, I, too, share in their suffering."

In his homily for the Mass, which included the consecration of the cathedral's new altar, Pope Benedict prayed for the rededication and renewal of the Catholic Church throughout Australia and asked the country's priests and religious to support fully the bishops' programs for protecting young people, assisting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

At an airport farewell ceremony before leaving for Rome July 21, the pope said the World Youth Day "experiences of prayer, and our joyful celebration of the Eucharist, were an eloquent testimony to the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit, present and active in the hearts of our young people."

"World Youth Day has shown us that the church can rejoice in the young people of today and be filled with hope for the world of tomorrow," he said.

Meeting Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and other government officials July 17, Pope Benedict praised



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

Pope Benedict XVI, riding in the popemobile, makes his way through the crowd gathered for the closing Mass of World Youth Day at Royal Randwick Racecourse in Sydney, Australia, July 20.

## Join Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and others for a Pilgrimage to Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine near Quebec City in Canada

October 8 - 13th



The year 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the first chapel erected on the site of the Saint Anne-de-Beaupre Shrine, one of the oldest pilgrimage sites in North America.

This special pilgrimage will leave Charlotte Wednesday, October 8, and fly to Montreal where the first two days will be spent touring that fascinating city and its beautiful churches, including the Oratory of St. Joseph. The group will then travel to Quebec City for the special weekend celebrations honoring the 350th anniversary of the historical chapel. On October 13, the group will return to Montreal and fly back to Charlotte.

The cost is \$2,030 per person (double occupancy) and includes roundtrip airfare from Charlotte, hotels and hotel taxes, breakfasts, dinners, land transportation, all transfers and baggage handling at hotels.

**Registration deadline is: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st.**

Check our web page at [www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html](http://www.stannsparish.org/announcements.html) for the application or call the St. Ann Church office at

**704-523-4641 for more information.**

(This is a privately-organized tour, not sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte.)



# God's plan for creation, especially people

efforts to promote reconciliation with the country's indigenous peoples, who have long been oppressed.

Dance, chants and art from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were included at many of the papal events, and elders from the two groups prominently welcomed the pope to their land.

## The young church

The pope's primary focus was on the thousands of young Catholics who came from some 170 countries to participate in the July 15-20 World Youth Day and reflect on its theme, "You Will Receive Power When the Holy Spirit Has Come Upon You, and You Will Be My Witnesses."

More than 200,000 young people attended the July 19 vigil at Royal Randwick Racecourse and, police said, some 350,000 people were at the track for the July 20 closing Mass. World Youth Day officials estimated the crowd at 400,000.

More than 15,000 pilgrims attended from the United States, including 12 from parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Words cannot describe the sense of blessing, the power of Pope Benedict's instruction, the pride of belonging to the one, true, holy and apostolic church at a gathering such as this," said Paul Kotlowksi, director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"To be there with the Holy Father and 400,000 people ... was a truly spiritual experience," said Terry Aiken, youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

"It was the experience of a lifetime to see the pope," said Megan Shelton, 18, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

"It was amazing to see all the other pilgrims from other countries. Everyone was so excited to be there and to see the pope," she said.

"Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness," the pope said in his homily for the Mass, which included administering the sacrament of confirmation to 24 young people from nine countries.

The world needs the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, he said at the Mass.

"In so many of our societies, side by side with material prosperity, a spiritual desert is spreading: an interior emptiness, an unnamed fear, a quiet sense of despair," he said.

The pope told the young people that opening their hearts to Jesus and cooperating with the gifts of the Holy Spirit would transform their lives and help them bring a life-giving witness to the rest of the world.

The youths participated in three days of catechesis sessions at more than 250 locations across Sydney. The sessions focused on the Holy Spirit as the "soul of the church," but also highlighted the youths' roles in the church.

"As a young person, it was nice to hear that we play a crucial part in its mission," said Shelton.

"We are the hope for the church. We keep it young. We are an important part of it," she said. "It was a renewing of our faith."

## Respecting God's creation(s)

Repeatedly during the trip, Pope Benedict described the Holy Spirit as God's creative, life-giving and courage-giving force.

The pope also spoke often of the need to protect the environment and respect the gifts of God's creation, but he made it clear to the young people that human beings are God's greatest creation.

"At the heart of the marvel of creation are you and I, the human family, 'crowned with glory and honor,'" as the Psalms say, he told the young people at the July 17 World Youth Day welcoming ceremony.

Just as the natural environment can be destroyed by selfishness and exploitation, he said, so too can human life be destroyed or damaged by not recognizing human dignity and the plan God has for each person's life.

"Experience shows that turning our back on the Creator's plan provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order," he said.

God gave people the freedom to make choices so that they would choose



CNS PHOTO BY WILL BURGESS, REUTERS

Pilgrims from Spain cheer as Pope Benedict XVI names Madrid as the host city of World Youth Day 2011. He made the announcement at the close of World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, July 20.

truth, goodness and beauty, the pope said.

"Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth and where unity is found in respectful communion," he said.

## 'Ambassadors of hope'

After watching a dramatic World Youth Day presentation of the Stations of the Cross through the streets of Sydney, the pope went to visit young people recovering from alcohol and drug abuse and other disadvantaged people being helped by the Alive program of Catholic Social Services.

The pope told them they were "ambassadors of hope" to their peers because they have had the courage to turn their lives around.

"The choice to abuse drugs or

alcohol, to engage in criminal activity or self-harm, may have seemed at the time to offer a way out of a difficult or confusing situation," he said. "You now know that instead of bringing life, it brings death."

The pope told them that Jesus loves them unconditionally and prayed that the Holy Spirit would be with them and would make them witnesses of the joy that comes from choosing to cherish the life God has given each of them.

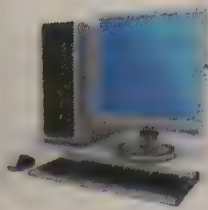
Pope Benedict also set aside a morning to encourage ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in Australia by holding separate meetings with Christian leaders and with representatives of Australia's Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Zoroastrian communities.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Author credits late father for helping her with first children's book

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Doreen Cronin's name is on the first book she got published, but the Catholic children's book author credits her father with a big assist.

Cronin is known in the children's book world for more than a half-dozen titles in the Farmer Brown-Duck series and three titles in the "Diary of a ..." series.

She said that her first book, "Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type," must have had some kind of supernatural assistance from her father, who had died only weeks before. Her father, a police officer, had a great sense of humor.

"Click Clack Moo" — it was very special. It took about 20 minutes (to write). It was just weeks after my father passed. It was like I was channeling something. I felt that my father actually wrote it for me," Cronin said.

"It's never been like that since," the best-selling author continued. "Diary of a Spider" took me at least a year. The average is like six months to a year. 'Diary of a Fly' took longer."

The upside of the slow pace, Cronin noted, is that "I can go back and go back and go back until I can get it right."

"Click Clack Moo" has become the unofficial children's book of the labor movement; in the story, the cows go on strike because Farmer Brown won't give them electric blankets at night.

"The very first publicity request I got (for the book) was at a labor law conference. And I was practicing law at the time — and I am not a labor lawyer," Cronin said.

She said she never sits down with any agenda.

"It's not something you should be doing with kids. Unions didn't even cross my mind when I was writing the book," she noted.

Now the mother of two daughters ages 4 and 2, Cronin said she did not have children yet when she wrote her first four

books. "And then when you have kids, you don't have any time," she added.

Cronin has had "Diary of a Worm" and "Diary of a Spider" made into films — well, cartoons — for Scholastic's "Storybook Treasures" DVD series.

"It's just a way to extend that reading experience," she said. The cartoons feature a "read-along" option, something grown-ups would call subtitles.

She didn't set out to be a children's book author. But Cronin had always remembered something her first-grade teacher at Waltoffer Elementary School in Bellmore, N.Y., told her at age 6: "My teacher told me — and this is a lesson on how powerful teachers are — she told me I could be a writer and I believed her."

Although she became a lawyer specializing in commercial litigation — "banks, insurance companies, exciting stuff," Cronin said — she kept writing.

"There is a box full of attempts that have no business seeing the light of day. They're clumsy. Some are absolutely horrible," she said of some of her earlier efforts. "There's a lot of kids who want to write books. There are a lot of adults who want to write books. But I have a thick skin. ... You're going to get rejected a lot," she said.

Cronin, whose mother taught catechism classes at their Long Island parish, appreciated the value of being read to as a child.

"It warms my heart when they head for the bookshelves," she said about her own children. "As a parent, you can never go wrong spending time reading with your kids."

She doesn't try to push her own books onto her children.

"My kids have free rein," Cronin said. "My younger daughter will say 'Click Clack Moo.' My older daughter loved 'Dooby Dooby Moo.'"

Cronin added, "My own kids, God bless 'em — there have been times I have been so tired, I was begging my daughter to watch TV and she would hand me a book."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 3, 2008

Aug. 3, Eighteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:1-3  
Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18
- 2) Romans 8:35, 37-39  
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

## Nourishment of God satisfies, is life-sustaining

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last week I had a medical procedure that required me to go without solid food for 24 hours beforehand.

The fasting wasn't too difficult until about the 18th hour when my children decided to make pizza and brownies for dinner — two of my favorite "comfort foods."

The tantalizing aromas assaulted me with a force I hadn't thought possible.

My teenage son teasingly tried to console me with the observation that there was nothing like a period of deprivation to make "real food" taste exceptionally good again.

After my procedure the next day, I left the doctor's office, went straight to the nearest restaurant for lunch and proved my son right by exclaiming over every bite as if I had never eaten food before.

The readings for this Sunday are all about "comfort food." It is indeed "rich fare," the kind of sustenance that comes from looking hopefully, listening, heeding and desiring God's

life above all else.

It's the sort of food that comes "in due season," often through the experience of deprivation or suffering, when we find ourselves in a "deserted place" as Matthew's Gospel portrays or in a time of great distress as described by St. Paul.

It is the bread of trusting in God's promises and the water of conviction that nothing "will separate us from the love of Christ."

Millions of people today live constantly with the demoralizing burden of hunger, and they must be physically fed in order to survive.

But Mother Teresa of Calcutta described an even more pervasive hunger, observing that "there is more hunger in this world for love and appreciation than for bread," and she declared that this is the reason "Jesus made himself the bread of life to satisfy our hunger for his love."

The nourishment that the Lord promises is not the cuisine that can be bought in a restaurant or prepared in a kitchen.

It is, however, the satisfying, comforting and life-sustaining food of God's love, freely given to those who most hunger for it and gratefully given, in turn, by those who have been filled.

### Questions:

For what do you most find yourself hungering and thirsting?

Who do you know that is hungry for the love and appreciation God can provide through your words and actions?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Heed me, and you shall eat well" (Isaiah 55:2b).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27-AUG. 2

Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52; Monday, Jeremiah 13:1-11, Deuteronomy 32:18-21, Matthew 13:31-35; Tuesday (St. Martha), Jeremiah 14:17-22, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday (St. Peter Chrysologus), Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46; Thursday (St. Ignatius of Loyola), Jeremiah 18:1-6, Matthew 13:47-53; Friday (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-58; Saturday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard), Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 3-9

Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35, 37-39, Matthew 14:13-21; Monday (St. John Mary Vianney), Jeremiah 28:1-17, Matthew 14:22-36; Tuesday (Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major), Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22, Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14; Wednesday (Transfiguration of the Lord), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9; Thursday (St. Cajetan, St. Sixtus II and Companions), Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 16:13-23; Friday (St. Dominic), Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7, Deuteronomy 32:35-36, 39, 41, Matthew 16:24-28; Saturday (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), Habakkuk 1:12-2:4, Matthew 17:14-20.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 10-16

Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33; Monday (St. Clare), Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28, Matthew 17:22-27; Tuesday, Ezekiel 2:8-3:4, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; Wednesday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus), Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22, Matthew 18:15-20; Thursday (St. Maximilian Kolbe), Ezekiel 12:1-2, Matthew 18:21-19:1; Friday (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; Saturday (St. Stephen of Hungary), Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32, Matthew 19:13-15.

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Currently, he serves as the full-time chaplain of Lexington Catholic High School and parish priest of St. Peter Claver Church near downtown Lexington. Fr. Norman has been blessed to be able to travel extensively throughout the United States, preaching a message of hope and healing for God's youth, young adults and elders. Fr. Norman believes that, "If we are to move ahead in society as Catholic Church, we must move within, discovering the power of our sacraments and the power of God's mercy and love!!!"



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CNS FILE PHOTO BY CAPITOL RECORDS

John Lennon is pictured in an undated Capitol Records publicity photo.

## In interview, Lennon called himself 'one of Christ's biggest fans'

LONDON (CNS) — British radio has broadcast an interview with John Lennon in which the late singer-composer claimed the Beatles were a Christian band that wanted to bring people closer to God.

In the interview, aired for the first time in the United Kingdom, Lennon described himself as "one of Christ's biggest fans."

He claimed he was misunderstood when he said in 1966 that the Beatles were "more popular than Jesus," and he expressed disappointment that he could not marry his second wife, Yoko Ono, in a church.

The interview was conducted in Montreal by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. in 1969 when Lennon, who was raised an Anglican, was at a peace protest. Three years ago, National Museums Liverpool bought the interview, which was broadcast on British Broadcasting Corp. Radio Four's Sunday program July 13.

The Liverpool-born musician was asked to clarify infamous remarks to the London Evening Standard newspaper in which he said that Christianity will "vanish and shrink" and might not

outlast rock and roll.

Lennon said: "It's just an expression meaning the Beatles seem to me to have more influence over youth than Christ."

"Now I wasn't saying that was a good idea because I'm one of Christ's biggest fans," he said. "And if I can turn the focus of the Beatles on to Christ's message, then that's what we're here to do."

He said: "If the Beatles get on the side of Christ, which they always were, and let people know that, then maybe the churches won't be full, but there'll be a lot of Christians dancing in the dance halls."

He said he thought "community praying was probably very powerful" but that he was against "the hypocrisy and the hat-wearing and the socializing and the tea parties."

He said he did not have a notion of a "physical heaven," adding that "the kingdom of heaven is within you, Christ said, and I believe that."

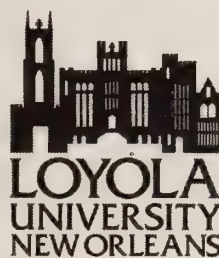
The interview was given the year Lennon quit the Beatles and embarked on a solo career that ended with his death in 1980 when he was shot by Mark Chapman in New York.

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St. Therese Catholic Church — Mooresville  
217 Brawley School Road — Room 15-17

Thursday, August 7 or Thursday, August 14 — 6:30 PM  
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or e-mail favillaronga@charlottediocese.org



## Knights thank Harris Teeter for assistance

*Grocery store recognized for assisting fundraising efforts*

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus recently expressed their gratitude to a local grocery store.

Richard White, grand knight of Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council 10852 and corporate chairman of the Knights' L.A.M.B. Foundation of N.C., presented a special Award of Appreciation to Harris Teeter in thanks for its work in helping facilitate donation drives for the foundation.

The presentation took place at a Harris Teeter location in south Charlotte June 27.

The L.A.M.B. Foundation is a public nonprofit organization supported by the Knights of Columbus throughout North Carolina to assist the intellectually disabled. The Knights raise funds through their "Operation L.A.M.B." Tootsie Roll drive, by soliciting donations from shoppers outside retail locations as well as from corporations and individuals.

For years, Harris Teeter has assisted in this effort by allowing Knights to distribute Tootsie Rolls at many of its store locations across the state.

Christy Hubbard, Harris Teeter's southern region operations manager, accepted the award on behalf of the Harris Teeter corporate office, along with Bob Ramsey, general manager of a Harris Teeter location in south Charlotte.

"We are extremely grateful to Harris Teeter for its continued support of our Operation L.A.M.B. program through the years," said White.

"Their assistance is instrumental to the growing success of our program,



COURTESY PHOTO

Richard White, corporate chairman for the Knights of Columbus L.A.M.B. Foundation of N.C., presents an Award of Appreciation to Bob Ramsey, Harris Teeter general manager, and Christy Hubbard, Southeast region operations manager for Harris Teeter June 27.

and their steady support is indicative of Harris Teeter's involvement in our community," he said.

For the past 33 years, the L.A.M.B. Foundation of N.C. has raised more than \$17 million for local charities supporting people with intellectual disabilities.

Charities that benefit from annual L.A.M.B. funds include Holy Angels in Belmont, Special Olympics, the O'Berry Center, LifeSpan and the Allegro Foundation.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the L.A.M.B. Foundation, visit [www.lambnc.org](http://www.lambnc.org).

## Charlotte-area Knights construct handicap-accessible ramps

KNIGHTS, from page 1

Mullis, 90, uses an electric wheelchair and can now navigate in and out of his home unassisted, thanks to the new ramp.

"We installed it in the back yard, which allowed easier access to the driveway and did not deter from the appearance of the front of the house," said Wilcocks.

Operation Exodus was founded 18 years ago by Joseph Moore, then a member of the Knights council at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. The program assists local people in need of outdoor, handicap access ramps.

Moore later became a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, bringing the program to that parish and beyond. Operation Exodus pools volunteers from surrounding Knights councils and parishioners to help with construction.

People who qualify for a ramp either have financial difficulties — completed ramps average \$2,000 for materials alone — or an immediate need precipitated by an unexpected event.

The Knights usually build them for

individuals, but have built a few for adult and young adult daycare facilities, according to Wilcocks.

"We get many referrals from the N.C. State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services," said Wilcocks.

"When we install ramps for them, they reimburse us for the materials used. All other ramps are funded by donations and fundraisers of the Knights of Columbus. We never charge for our labor."

Operation Exodus is a "perfect vehicle" for Knights to accomplish their missions of charity, community, family and service to God, said Richard White, grand knight of Council 10852 at St. Matthew Church.

"It almost always touches upon individuals and families who have enough burdens, without them having to worry about finding out how to get an access ramp constructed," he said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Operation Exodus program, contact Bob Wilcocks at (704) 542-1541 or [wilcocks@carolina.rr.com](mailto:wilcocks@carolina.rr.com).

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## AROUND THE DIOCESE



PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Margaret Hauptle, who turned 100 July 7, sits with her daughter Anne Bazarsky and Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, during Hauptle's birthday celebration in the parish hall July 6.

# 100 years young

*Basilica parishioner celebrates century of faith, love*

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY  
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — During Mass July 6, a parishioner was asked to stand and receive a special blessing.

Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, extended his hand toward Margaret Hauptle in honor of her 100th birthday on July 7. Enthusiastic applause from the congregation followed the moving tribute.

After Mass, family, friends and fellow parishioners gathered in the parish hall to celebrate. Anne Bazarsky, Hauptle's only child, said her mother enjoyed her party and meeting people, and especially enjoyed her three

**"Laughter and love keep her going."**

— Anne Bazarsky

pieces of cake.

Margaret Hauptle was born in Philadelphia July 7, 1908, three months before Henry Ford released the Model T automobile to the public at a cost of \$825, and 15 months prior to the completion of the Basilica of St. Lawrence (then St. Lawrence Church) in October 1909.

In 1950, Margaret married Fred Hauptle, an artist and architect, and their daughter Anne was born in a hospital he designed. The family later moved to Florida, where Margaret would work for the Department of Veterans Affairs until she was 70 years old.

After her husband died and she turned 90, Hauptle went to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Houston, Texas. In 2002, they relocated to Asheville and became parishioners of the basilica.

Hauptle is the proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of three wonderful children. She maintains a healthy lifestyle and takes no medication, except for a daily vitamin.

Anne Bazarsky said her mother's strong Catholic faith has helped her achieve her 100-year milestone.

My mother has always "turned things over to God, prayed to the saints, read her prayer books and received the sacraments reverently," she said.

"She believes in angels and is devoted to Jesus and Mary. She is always eager to get up on Sundays and go to Mass," said Bazarsky.

While few people live to be 100, even fewer of them are able to walk down the aisle of a large church to sit in the front. Instead of letting the Eucharist be brought to her, Hauptle walks up to receive with her daughter.

The two women pray the rosary weekly and other prayers daily. But faith is not the only secret to Hauptle's longevity.

My mother "never complains," said Bazarsky. "Laughter and love keep her going."



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### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org)



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Offering signs of welcome

*Opening wide parish doors to welcome diversity every Sunday*

For her prom this year, my 17-year-old daughter Maria's date was a handsome Samoan football player who is as active as she is in the drama department. They're not "steadies," merely part of a big circle of drama friends. Her friend also happens to be a Mormon.

A few weeks later, my daughter took her Scholastic Aptitude Test for college and so did her friend, so they went out for lunch afterward.

It seemed such a normal event that it was only later that I chuckled. My Irish-Italian Catholic daughter and her Samoan Mormon friend went to lunch for — what else? — Chinese takeout.

Welcome to America in 2008!

Some people are surprised to learn that Anchorage, Alaska, is a very culturally diverse place. Our school system now has more "minority" students than Anglo-Saxons, with people hailing from every spot on the map.

I went to a wedding last weekend. The wonderful music was provided by the parish's regular 10:30 a.m. Mass group, a Samoan choir.

The maid of honor, who was from Los Angeles (no stranger to diversity), quizzed me. "But what's with the Samoans?" she asked. "Why would they come to Anchorage?"

Well, why does anyone move anywhere? Why is my Irish-Czech hometown in Nebraska now 50 percent Hispanic? What brings the Vietnamese to Los Angeles? Why is the best restaurant above the Arctic Circle in Alaska Mexican?

Usually the answer has something to do with jobs and economics. It takes a couple of families settling in. Soon a community is born. Sometimes, in the case of the Sudanese refugees who are settling in Anchorage too, it's to escape persecution at home.

That old cliché, that "the most segregated hour of Christian America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning" is probably still true, yet our changing parishes show us that the world is rapidly coming to our doorstep.

So how do we open our doors

### For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



with welcome?

Our pastor saw the changing demographics of our parish and held an "international" night. People were invited to read, pray and sing in several languages at Mass.

A potluck followed with flags of various countries flying over tables of ethnic foods. The idea was to make people feel welcome, and judging by the turnout it was a huge success.

But the challenge lies in making people feel welcome "every" Sunday.

As part of a graduate program I'm in, I've attended Lutheran and Presbyterian services, and I've also attended a Hispanic Mass at a nearby parish.

At the Lutheran and Presbyterian services I felt quite at home. I knew friends in the congregations, the sermons were good, and I looked pretty much like everybody else. Despite our liturgical differences, I was comfortable.

But attending the Hispanic Mass was an eye-opener for me. I got a glimpse of what it feels like to be the "other."

Familiar as I am with the Mass, my lack of Spanish made me feel like an outsider. The homily was simply a blur. How I wished I knew Spanish as I sat feeling isolated and alone!

Feeling more comfortable in a Lutheran service than in a Catholic one in another language gave me pause. How hard it must be to feel totally at home in a new parish when one is different from the majority.

The starting place for me is to be conscious that others may feel isolated and alone in my parish. The next step should be reaching out intentionally at every Mass to offer some sign of welcome.

## Mission trips on the rise: Are they a good thing?

*Trips often expand our world, build bridges and faith*

Some people snidely call them "vacationaries." Other people call it "religious tourism."

Whatever you call it, the number of people going on short "mission trips" with churches is dramatically increasing.

The Washington Post recently reported that more than 1.6 million Americans went on short-term international mission trips in 2005. They spent over \$2.4 billion on these trips.

On a recent trip to visit our sister parish projects in Nicaragua, our parish delegation was one of at least four church groups on the plane.

Are these missions a good thing?

Some people say no. They argue that these mission trips are a waste of time and money, that it makes no sense to spend thousands of dollars to fly unskilled workers to do some job that could be done more cheaply by the locals who need money, not visitors.

Others argue that these visits are a kind of social "voyeurism" for rich people who gawk at the poor, and that the trips are too short for people to learn much.

I've heard the criticisms. There are problems. But on balance, I still think these missionary trips are a very good thing.

Which would you prefer: young people spending a week on a mission trip fixing up a community center in rural Mexico or at some drunken "beach week" in Cancun? Would it be better if retired folks spend money on five-star hotels or on an orphanage in Guatemala?

These mission trips change people for the good. People learn, grow in maturity. Even without language skills, young people can learn more in a one-week mission trip than in a semester of classes.

These missions often lead to longer missionary efforts. Maybe participants will join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or one of over 100 Catholic mission groups listed in the "Response" catalogue.

My parish now has a decade of experience with mission trips. Our youth go on religious work camps every summer. We have at least one adult mission trip every year.

We have two sister parish relationships in Mexico and Nicaragua. We have done rebuilding trips after

### Parish Diary

FATHER PETER  
DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



Hurricane Katrina.

All these trips expand our world — and build our faith. We have made mistakes, but I think we have learned a few things.

1. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead. We don't go out looking for "mission trips"; we let them come to us.

Our relationship with Mexico, for example, began because Mexican migrant workers in our area were coming to Mass at our church. Gradually we got to know them and their hometown.

2. Go only where invited. Our trips to Mexico, Mississippi and Nicaragua were the result of an invitation from the local pastors.

3. Each mission involves an exchange. We don't have answers to many problems, but we listen to the local people.

They listen to us too. We invite them to visit us if they can.

4. It takes lots of time to build a relationship. Our first adult mission trip came after a parishioner spent a whole year on a Native American reservation.

In Nicaragua, we sent money to build houses for four years before we visited.

5. It is a spiritual relationship we travel to nurture; we are not going to strangers. We go to see our brothers and sisters in Christ.

They can help us with prayer, just as we pray for them.

All of these mission trips break down barriers and build up bridges. As St. Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians "We are strangers and aliens no longer but fellow members of the household of God."

If these trips teach us that, they are worth it.

## Focus on fathers, too

I am in agreement with what columnist Stephen Kent wrote regarding the incident of teen pregnancy in Gloucester, Mass. ("The point is not the prestige pregnancy pact," July 11).

The focus should not be on some sort of pact among the young women, but I would suggest that it needs to go beyond Mr. Kent's suggestion that the parents "should look to reasons for their daughters' low self-esteem." In these situations, society's focus is almost always on the young women and their parents. That

## Letter to the Editor

focus covers only half the people in this situation. These young women did not become pregnant on their own.

As such, the focus should include the young men and their parents. The young women and men were integral to the pregnancies. The parents of the young women and men are equally integral to the developments in this situation.

— E. Crusan  
Marvin, N.C.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Why the embryo matters

*Embryo will determine society's value on human life*

At their Spring 2008 general meeting, the U.S. bishops overwhelmingly approved a new statement on embryonic stem-cell research.

This is their first formal statement as a body specifically on this issue, though the bishops' conference and many individual bishops have certainly spoken out over the years.

A fair question would be: Why now? What is new to warrant a more formal statement on the principled case against killing human embryos for their stem cells?

Two things are new.

First, the national policy debate is about to be renewed in a more intense way. Next year a new congress and president will face this issue, and currently no presidential nominee supports President Bush's position against funding stem-cell research that requires destroying human embryos.

This is a good time to remind Catholics and others what is at stake.

Second, this debate has reached a turning point in the scientific and medical community, though many politicians are slow to notice this.

For years, the pro-life movement has said there are other and better ways to pursue the medical promise of stem-cell research. It has become increasingly obvious that this is exactly right.

Stem cells from adult tissues and umbilical cord blood have been used

in clinical trials to repair heart damage, restore sight and treat conditions such as multiple sclerosis and juvenile diabetes.

A new technique for "reprogramming" adult cells has produced cells with the properties of embryonic stem cells, without creating or destroying embryos — and prominent experts are abandoning embryo research in favor of this approach.

This is not to say that promising alternatives will simply make this issue go away. But the noise about the "unique promise" of embryo research may die down enough to allow the moral argument to be heard.

If we have two promising ways to advance medicine, and one of them is free of moral problems, wouldn't everyone prefer that route?

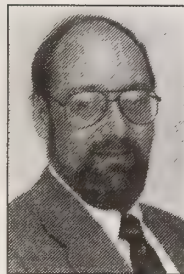
A deeper question is: Why the embryo? Is this little "ball of cells" worth all the fuss?

The bishops' statement has compelling answers to that question. But in brief, this is where the battle on human life is joined, because it is here that Americans are being told to subsidize deliberate destruction of innocent human lives for a supposed "greater good."

Experts defending this research know that the embryo is a living member of the human species — but they deny that he or she has fundamental rights, because the qualities that they think make up "personhood" are lacking.

## Life Issues Forum

RICHARD M. DOERFLINGER  
GUEST COLUMNIST



The fact is, those qualities may be lacking in some very young, very old and very disabled people after birth as well, and some ethicists are openly considering how useful it would be for medical progress, or even for cost control, to expand the category of humans with no rights.

The human embryo, like the unborn child generally, has become our society's "canary in the mine" — the helpless creature whose life or death will tell us whether we still hold to the inherent and equal value of each human life, or have allowed a deadly toxin into our culture allowing the strong to oppress the weak in the name of "progress."

That's a question we have to get right.

*Doerflinger is associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.*

## When evangelization is at its best

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



As I drove by a construction site in Washington, young Hispanic laborers could be seen working. I was again struck by this phenomenon when visiting the Franciscan Monastery where swarms of young Hispanic men were renovating it.

Two words best describe their spirit: proud and energetic. When returning from work in the evening, I couldn't help but notice how they strutted proudly to the subway station.

I had to wonder how many of these young men have that same pride in our church and energize it with their presence.

A recent report from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University states that "Latino(a) teens will soon comprise more than half of all adolescent Catholics in the U.S. However, as a group they are more religiously disengaged than other Catholic teens."

The report brings back memories of national studies I helped conduct for the U.S. bishops that warned that the church stood a good chance of losing substantial numbers of young adult Hispanics in the new millennium. Why is this so?

Hispanics, more often than not, are being assimilated into the profane and secular parts of U.S. society. For example, many of the TV programs they watch display a growing irreverence for the sacred.

Another contributing factor to decreasing numbers is the efforts of evangelical groups using every means possible to attract Hispanics.

Years ago, I co-sponsored a study with Jesuit Father Joseph Fitzpatrick, who specialized in Puerto Rican studies. When I walked up Fordham Lane to Fordham University in New York to work with him, it was like being in Puerto Rico, Cuba and Mexico.

I would often think how easy it is to be swallowed up in the glamour of a big city and lose your faith.

No doubt parishes are doing their best to encourage Hispanic youths to cherish their faith. Much more, however, must be done for those who are religiously disengaged! Hispanic Catholics must be empowered to pull themselves up by their own boot straps!

Years ago I went down to Guatemala to be with Maryknoll missionaries. While there, I witnessed young Mayan men come in from the hillsides, spend days at the cathedral in Huehuetenango preparing to be catechists, and then return to their villages to catechize their people.

I have to wonder what would happen if our Catholic funding agencies helped to create a Hispanic catechetical movement similar to the one in Huehuetenango.

Evangelization is at its best when those evangelizing are of the same culture of those they evangelize.

# Purr more, hiss less

*Cats give us heavenly lessons for living*

I've always loved cats, ever since my beloved father brought home a sweet little kitten as a gift for me when I was 6.

I named her (or him, who knew then???) "Kitty." Immediately I had a bosom friend.

I had Kitty for a year. Then a neighbor who didn't like my cat put poison on the fence between our yards; Kitty died.

I screamed a lot and prayed to God to take care of Kitty in heaven. I had just made my first holy Communion and my new God answered prayers!

My dad immediately got me another cat. We moved to different house, and I was never without a cat for decades after that.

When asked why I liked cats so much, I could only answer with a shrug and a smile. But now I have some answers found in a charming, illustrated book, "Purr More, Hiss Less: Heavenly Lessons I Learned From My Cat."

Author Allia Zobel Nolan was formerly the editor of religious books for children at Reader's Digest.

"Cats can teach us the most profound things about life," says Nolan. "My buddies (cats), for example, have shown me how not to hold grudges (hiss, spit

and get over it); the importance of sharing (never bring dead snakes home unless you have enough for everyone); and how to be content in any situation (as long as there is a warm lap to lie in). And that's not the half of it."

I never thought of cats that way! Nolan says she's learned from her tubby cat that "God doesn't care how much you weigh."

From a jealous cat, rejected, it is clear that "you win over more people with a purr than a hiss," Nolan adds, and from the very mistaken cat who tries to carry a pile of everything we are taught not to "be a slave to your possessions."

How about this bit of wisdom from her wise cat: "Life is precious, even if you have nine of them."

I spoke with the author recently, and she convinced me that "we'd all live kinder, gentler, less stressful lives if we took life lessons from our cats."

Here are a few more wise ways that she says her cats have taught her:

— "If at first you don't succeed, take a nap and try again."

— "You're one of a kind; so don't be a copycat."

— "It's better to use your head than your claws."

— "If you must walk over people, do

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO  
CNS COLUMNIST



it quickly."

— "It doesn't matter what color you are, or whether you're shorthaired or longhaired."

I could have added to this list, "If you're a mother, be as good as a cat mom," for talking to Nolan brought back so many memories of such a good cat mom.

The momma cat I had when I was 13 moved her litter to our attic for their safety I guess. Then one of her little ones fell down between the inside and outside attic walls.

Unable to reach it, the momma cat then brought her other little ones back downstairs.

I was devastated, crying that my kitty was going to die. But then, my wonderful dad broke through the wall and rescued the kitty.

He gave her back to its momma, who cuddled her lovingly.





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Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

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## Laying down the law

*Catholic woman  
works to strengthen  
N.C. sex offender laws*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

GASTONIA — On July 28 Gov. Mike Easley signed the Jessica Lunsford Act, making North Carolina the 43rd state to pass a law strengthening penalties against child sex offenders.

There to witness the signing was Janet Morrison, president of the Child Protection Coalition for North Carolina and parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

"It's a sad situation to be in," said Morrison, "that a child had to have lost its life for government to go into action to pass a law."

The Jessica Lunsford Act mandates a minimum 25-year

See LAW, page 6

## Unwavering dedication

*CSS employee retires  
after 30 years*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In her 30 years of working for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, Barbara Bazluki has worn many hats.

She began as a volunteer, worked as director of the Refugee Resettlement Office

See RETIRE, page 6

## Faith rising from the ashes



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte lead a procession from the church to the newly renovated and expanded parish hall, which was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis July 27.

*Bishop Jugis dedicates  
renovated parish hall  
damaged by fire*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Although a fire had scorched a portion of their parish hall, the Charlotte-area Vietnamese Catholics worked to turn a negative into a positive.

After raising funds and performing much of the manual labor, they have repaired and expanded the parish hall at St. Joseph Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the renovated facility July 27. The event was a visual pageant featuring native Vietnamese dress, music and expression of worship.

"Today is a joyous day for St. Joseph Church," said Bishop Jugis, who celebrated a Mass preceding the dedication.

See HALL, page 5



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A volunteer shrink-wraps a pallet containing 50-pound bags of rice at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte July 27. More than 100,000 pounds of food, paper products and supplies were collected by parishioners and sent to Haiti.

## Hope for Haiti

*Annual food drive bigger than ever*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Bags and boxes of cereal, rice, pasta and other non-perishable items towered over volunteers in the gymnasium of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte July 27.

This year parishioners collected more than 100,000 pounds of non-perishable food and other products for the parish's sixth annual Haiti Food Drive for the Missionaries

of the Poor.

The items were stacked on pallets and secured with shrink wrap in preparation for shipment to Cap Haitien, Haiti, where they will be used by the Missionaries of the Poor to serve hundreds of Haitian families living in extreme poverty.

Founded by Father Richard HoLung in 1981,

See HAITI, page 7

### Knights of Columbus

Councils donate funds, install  
new officers, guard martyrs

| PAGES 8-9

### Culture Watch

Farmer's work deepens faith;  
Scripture readings

| PAGE 10

### Youths In Action

Youths raise funds, complete  
service projects

| PAGE 12

#\*



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FROM ATLANTA TO BEIJING



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIST SCHOOL

Kathleen Hersey, 18, an All-American swimmer and 2008 graduate of Marist School in Atlanta, is at the Olympic Games in Beijing, China, where she'll compete in the women's 200-meter butterfly. She is pictured in an undated photo.

## Catholic school grad to compete in Olympic swimming event

ATLANTA (CNS) — The video camera was on in swim coach Terry Blish's office at Marist School in Atlanta, and all day teachers, friends and teammates stopped by to record words of encouragement and good luck to alumna Kathleen Hersey.

They were sending gold-medal wishes to Hersey, 18, an All-American swimmer and 2008 Marist graduate who will compete in the women's 200-meter butterfly at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

Blish planned to send a DVD of everyone's good wishes to Stanford University, where Hersey was training prior to the Aug. 8-24 games.

At the Hersey home, the swimmer's parents have been speaking to their daughter briefly on the phone every night, trying to keep the conversation light, her father said. They don't talk about swimming.

"As parents we try to be supportive and capture the lighter things, like what are you doing for fun," he said.

Swimming became Kathleen Hersey's life once she took first place at a county meet when she was 6, and it became a natural extension of her parents' lives.

She also played soccer and took ballet, tennis and piano lessons, but soon realized that she wanted to devote all her energy to swimming, said her mother, Regina.

Kathleen joined the swim team when she was accepted at Marist for seventh grade; the school has students in

grades 7 through 12.

In her four years on the varsity team, she won 13 individual state titles in the 100-meter butterfly and 200-meter individual medley, breaking school, state and national prep school records, Blish said.

Between 2005 and 2007 she rose from 77th to sixth in world rankings in the women's 200-meter butterfly. Last summer she won four gold medals at the Pan American Games.

At Swim Atlanta, where she trained, she swam three to four hours a day, six days a week. She participated in all Marist team meetings, retreats and meets and maintained a 3.6-grade-point average.

While they will be hoping for a gold medal for their daughter, the Herseys have already had their prayers answered, they said. The St. Jude the Apostle Church parishioners could not have children, but always prayed for a child. Eighteen years ago they adopted Kathleen.

Despite her swimming accolades, it was her gratitude for her adoption that she wrote about in her senior-year essay, said Blish.

"She wrote that she was so grateful that her birth mother chose life and that she was so grateful that her parents are her parents," he said.

Hersey, who will attend the University of Texas on a swim scholarship in the fall, will make a mark in Beijing, said Blish. "It's going to be recognized all over the world what a wonderful young lady she is."

## Calls for action, prayer follow professor's desecration of host

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — The pastor of the Catholic parish in Morris and a spokeswoman for the Diocese of St. Cloud have urged Catholics to contact the University of Minnesota-Morris to express their anger about a professor who desecrated a host reported to be consecrated.

They also asked Catholics to pray for Paul Z. Myers, the professor, and for others who share his views.

Myers, in a blog posting in early July, vowed to desecrate a consecrated host and asked readers to send him "some consecrated Communion wafers."

On July 24 he posted a photo showing he had put a nail through a host he said he had received in response to his request.

Catholics should "share their outrage that the school continues to employ someone who so blatantly attacks the Catholic Church's beliefs and what she holds to be most holy," said Rebecca

Kurowski, director of communications for the St. Cloud Diocese, which includes Morris.

"While we must condemn the attacks he makes, we must not condemn him, but pray for him out of love," said Father Timothy Baltes, pastor of Assumption Church in Morris. "Only God can touch such a heart, and that is what we pray for."

Myers, who teaches biology at the school, announced on his personal blog July 24 that he pierced a Communion host — along with pages from the Quran — with a rusty nail and threw it in the trash. A picture of the act is posted along with the entry. He called the host "a cracker."

"The diocese is horrified about P.Z. Myers' attacks against holy Communion," Kurowski said. "We wholeheartedly condemn the attacks he makes. Yet, legally, there is nothing that we can do to stop this outrageousness."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

church office at (828) 765-2224.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today" will be held Aug. 26 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., 1-3 p.m. This two-hour faith formation and enrichment session is sponsored by "Why Catholic?" and presented by RENEW International. For more information, contact Michael Coyle at (704) 598-3049.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* recollection for men will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 5, 7-9 p.m. Confessions will be heard from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. *Opus Dei* is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church that helps people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or e-mail [joremy.ignacio@gmail.com](mailto:joremy.ignacio@gmail.com).

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* recollection for women will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Meditations will begin at 10 a.m. followed by Mass at 12 p.m. Confessions will be heard at from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. *Opus Dei* is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church that helps people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, please contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or e-mail [joremy.ignacio@gmail.com](mailto:joremy.ignacio@gmail.com).

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

DENVER — The Senior Group of Holy Spirit Church meets once a month for fun and fellowship. All are invited to join. For more information on upcoming events, contact Irene Brunner at (704) 483-1210.

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — A *holy hour* is held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., until December 2008 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Lourdes. The holy hour consists of evening prayer, recitation of the rosary and Benediction. The celebration is open to all. For more information, contact the parish office at (704) 289-2773.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity* of the Secular Franciscan Order meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or e-mail [jnell@dnet.net](mailto:jnell@dnet.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *rosary of intercession for priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests, deacons and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the

—THE—  
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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Muslim leader expresses hope that pope will visit Syria for Pauline year

*Cardinal: Pope may visit Africa in 2009*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The grand mufti of Syria, Ahmad Bader Hassoun, said he has invited Pope Benedict XVI to Damascus to celebrate the year of St. Paul, the apostle converted on the road to Damascus.

The grand mufti, a leader of Syria's 18 million Muslims, met with Italian journalists who were visiting Damascus as part of their own celebration of the Pauline year.

Vatican Radio reported Aug. 1 that Hassoun said he hoped to meet Pope Benedict in Rome and he hoped the pope would visit Damascus before the Pauline celebrations end next June.

The pope convoked the yearlong celebration to mark the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth.

The Vatican Radio report said

Syria is not the only country that has extended a Pauline year invitation to the pope.

"Other nations in the Middle East that saw the passage or presence of St. Paul on their territory" have done likewise, Vatican Radio said, although it did not name the countries.

The Vatican has not confirmed any papal trips outside Italy after the pope's Sept. 12-15 trip to Paris and Lourdes, France.

However, in late July, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, told an Italian Catholic newspaper that while decisions about papal travel for 2009 have not been finalized, Africa is likely to be on the list.

"The church in Africa deserves a trip by the pope," Cardinal Bertone told the newspaper *Avvenire*.

Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Area Catholics meet each Saturday at 8 a.m. for prayer at the abortion clinic *A Woman's Choice*, 201 Pomona Dr. A rosary and a divine mercy chaplet are prayed. If you are interested in participating, contact Carolyn Dominick at (336) 292-3612.

KERNERSVILLE — A "Why Catholic?" workshop on "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today" will take place Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St. The workshop, presented by RENEW International, is free and open to the public. Call Jeannine Martin (336) 294-4696, ext 225 at the parish office, or e-mail [jmartin@stpaulcc.org](mailto:jmartin@stpaulcc.org) no later than July 31 if you plan to attend.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828) 994-0880 or e-mail [jgmoran@charter.net](mailto:jgmoran@charter.net).

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today" will be held Aug. 26 at St. Therese of Lisieux Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., 7-9 p.m. This two-hour faith formation and enrichment session is sponsored by "Why Catholic?" and presented by RENEW International. For more information, contact Michael Coyle at (704) 598-3049.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — "Spreading the Good News: How Catholics Share Our Faith" evangelization training for lay leaders and volunteers will take place at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. Aug. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The workshop will present the basics of Catholic evangelization and help participants begin to develop an action plan for their parish, group or organization. For more information and registration, call Frank Villarronga at (704) 370-3274 or e-mail [favillarronga@charlottediocese.org](mailto:favillarronga@charlottediocese.org).

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, will celebrate a *solemn high Mass in the extraordinary form* at Holy Family Church in Clemmons on the feast of the Assumption, Friday, Aug. 15, at 12 p.m. For more information, contact Father Kowalski at (336) 786-8147.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will conduct an ongoing series called "Catholics Returning Home" on six consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 9. These sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics who are interested in returning to the church. There will be informal sharing and an update on the Catholic faith. For more details, call Sean or Kelly Hines at (336) 940-6053 or e-mail [hinesnc@adelphia.net](mailto:hinesnc@adelphia.net).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Vatican official defends life of Italian woman in vegetative state

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because Eluana Englaro is alive, caregivers must continue to give her food and water, said the president of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life.

Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, president of the academy, hailed a July 31 decision by the procurator general's office in Milan to ask Italy's Supreme Court to overturn a lower court decision authorizing the withdrawal of nutrition and hydration at the request of the young woman's father.

The procurator general's office said that when Milan's civil Court of Appeals ruled July 9 that the provision of nutrition and hydration could be stopped, it did so without obtaining a clear scientific opinion that the young woman's condition could never improve.

In addition to saying it would take the case to the Supreme Court, the procurator general's office asked the Court of Appeals to suspend its ruling so that Englaro's family does not act before the Supreme Court can rule.

Now 37 years old, Englaro was injured in a car accident in 1992. She has been in what doctors describe as a

persistent vegetative state for 16 years.

Archbishop Fisichella said Aug. 1 that the Italian justice system must "put the value of life back in first place. Eluana is a young woman who is alive; she is not attached to any machine and this does not involve pulling any plug."

Carrying out the appeals court decision would involve "simply not giving her anything to eat or drink and this would be a crime, an immense crime," he said. The Italian justice system, he said, also has to recognize that science cannot say with certainty that her condition is irreversible, "which brings us back to the larger theme of the inviolability of life always, everywhere, despite everything."

At the same time, Archbishop Fisichella said no one who has not had a similar experience can judge the young woman's family or families dealing with similar cases.

"I think we need to make a great effort to be close to these people, very close to the families and insist with great force that no one be abandoned in this condition," left alone to care for their loved ones for years on end, he said.

## Bishop brings the torch



CNS PHOTO BY UCAN

Coadjutor Bishop Peter Fang Jianping poses with the Olympic relay torch in front of a Catholic shrine July 31 in Tangshan, China. The bishop was among the 200 torchbearers who were completing the final leg of the relay. The Olympic summer games start Aug. 8 in Beijing.

## Indian bishops offer prayers, concern after stampede

NEW DELHI (CNS) — India's Catholic bishops expressed condolences and concern after the deaths of 146 Hindus, including 42 children and 50 women, in a stampede at a northern Indian Hindu pilgrimage center.

"It is a matter of great concern for all of us that similar incidents occur at places of pilgrimage and worship," Divine World Father Babu Joseph, spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of

India, said Aug. 4.

He said it was time that "we created better facilities and enforced discipline for the safety and security of pilgrims."

The bishops want authorities to draw up long-term plans to ensure "similar unfortunate incidents do not repeat," Father Joseph said.

The stampede is the third such incident this year at Hindu pilgrim centers in India.

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**Aug. 15 (10 a.m.)**  
Mass and blessing of independent living center  
Pennybyrn at Maryfield, High Point

**Aug. 16 (5 p.m.)**  
Sacrament of confirmation  
St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville

**Aug. 21 (10 a.m.)**  
Diocesan foundation board meeting  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**Aug. 22 (5 p.m.)**  
Mass and blessing of new convent for Missionaries of Charity  
Charlotte



# Celebrating catechists



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Leslie Choate holds her certificate of appreciation from Bishop Peter J. Jugis after Mass at St. Frances of Rome Mission Aug. 3. Choate, who recently retired as parish catechetical leader, was honored for her nine years of service to the church in various capacities — including faith formation coordinator, pastoral council and finance council member, chair of the Family Life Commission, chair of the Community Life Commission, extraordinary minister of holy Communion, usher and lector.

Also pictured are (from left) Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation programs; Father Joseph Dinh, pastor; and Ruth White, Choate's aunt who traveled from Maryland for the celebration.

Below: Carol Brown is pictured with her certificate of appreciation from Bishop Peter J. Jugis after Mass at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone July 27. Brown retired after 20 years of serving as parish catechetical leader.

Also pictured (from left) are Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation programs; Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor; and Larry Brown, Carol's husband.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, talks to children participating in the parish's faith and culture camps in July.

## Fun while following in the footsteps

GASTONIA — In keeping with Pope Benedict XVI's convocation to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth, "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" was the theme of this year's faith and culture camp at St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

More than 70 children of the parish took part in the daily sessions and events July 21-25. Each day's program included Mass and centered on various aspects of St. Paul's life and mission.

"We had a focus each day, such as his conversion, teaching and sharing," said Theresa Webster, parish faith formation secretary.

The children also took part in service

projects such as making rosaries, writing cards for shut-ins and collecting items for needy children and the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

"With the help of 40 volunteers, the children made crafts, played games, traded holy cards of the Apostles, listened to stories, sang, danced and watched the middle schoolers act out St. Paul's life from Acts each day," said Webster.

The 25 high school and college students who volunteered also spent time in eucharistic adoration and prayer, and visited area churches.

"It was a wonderful week for the children, teens and adults," said Webster.



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## FROM THE COVER

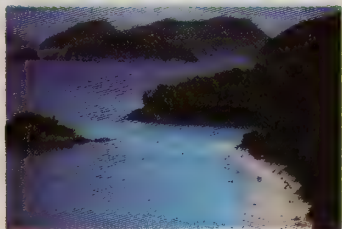


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, along with Father Peter Pham (left), priest in residence, and Father Tan Van Le, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte, cuts the ceremonial ribbon before the dedication of the parish's newly renovated and expanded parish hall July 27.

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 (704) 370-3332 – or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

## Bishop Jugis dedicates new parish hall at St. Joseph Church

HALL, from page 1

"Jesus promised that wherever two or three of his disciples are gathered together in his name, he is present there," the bishop said during his homily.

"The parish hall is an important center where we will gather for parish activities now and in the future, and Christ will be present there," he continued. "In the activities that take place in the parish hall, we will come to know the presence of Christ, and we will experience the joy of his friendship and grow in his love."

After Mass, Bishop Jugis; Father Peter Tan Van Le, pastor; and Father Peter Pham, priest in residence, took part in a procession of parishioners in traditional Vietnamese costumes, dancing dragons, banners and drums.

After Bishop Jugis and the priests cut the ceremonial ribbon across the parish hall's doors, firecrackers exploded as parishioners and guests filed inside. They watched proudly as Bishop Jugis blessed the hall and those inside with holy water.

"We are very honored to have him with us on this special event," said Paul Tran, parish finance council chairman.

The parish hall was dedicated in memory of the 117 Vietnamese martyrs, who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries and were declared saints by Pope John Paul II in 1988.

During the ceremony at the Vatican, Pope John Paul said the martyrs had remained patriotic despite persecution for their faith.

### Building on beliefs

Persecution was something familiar to the first Vietnamese in Charlotte.

The Vietnamese community in Charlotte began in 1981 as a mission program of three churches — Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Consolation and St. Ann. The 20 or so original Vietnamese families were political refugees, resettled in North Carolina by a number of humanitarian organizations including Catholic Social Services.

Many of the Vietnamese Catholics had been imprisoned by the Communists for their beliefs prior to coming to Charlotte in search of jobs and religious freedom, said Father Tan Van Le.

The priest, who was imprisoned for 13 years and had to celebrate Mass in secret, came to Charlotte from the Diocese of Vinh Long in Vietnam via a diocesan sponsorship.

The community continued to grow and a Baptist church was purchased in 1998. Then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the cultural center under the patronage of St. Joseph in November 1999, when approximately 1,500 Vietnamese were attending Mass regularly.

A church was constructed next to the existing building and dedicated by Bishop Jugis in May 2004. The existing building became the parish hall, to be used for parish functions and activities,

"In the activities that take place in the parish hall, we will come to know the presence of Christ ...."

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

and community and cultural events.

The entire facility, which then encompassed almost 22,300 feet, was to serve the spiritual and educational needs of then more than 9,000 Vietnamese in the area.

"The church allows Charlotte's Vietnamese community to have a place of worship, a place of education for young people and a place for us to preserve the mother language, tradition and morals of our culture," said Father Tan Van Le in 2004.

### Elevating faith

On Sept. 17, 2006, a flash fire from a propane burner damaged a portion of the parish hall. No one was injured and the Vietnamese Catholic community began making plans to repair and expand the facility.

"About 4,000 square feet were added, with a new kitchen area of about 1,800 square feet," said Charlie Scism, the general contractor who oversaw construction.

"A lot of guys from the church volunteered on the construction," he noted.

"We are grateful for all those who, by their work and their contributions, have helped to build this new parish hall," said Bishop Jugis.

St. Joseph Church was one of four missions in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte to be elevated to parish status July 1, 2007.

The move came after a 2007 study commissioned by Bishop Jugis to determine which of the 23 missions in the diocese might be ready for parish status. The study took into consideration the missions' registered households, Mass attendance and recommendations from the diocesan strategic plan.

The four new parishes all began as missions to serve immigrants of the diocese — Vietnamese and Hispanic.

Keeping with the diocese's policy of not creating "national" parishes — parishes exclusive to one nationality or culture — the four new parishes were to be territorial, with membership consisting of all Catholics within the parish's geographical boundaries.

St. Joseph Church now serves all Catholics in the Steele Creek community.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).



## FROM THE COVER

# CSS employee retires after 30 years of service

RETIRE, from page 1

and most recently served as business manager of the CSS administrative office. Through it all, she demonstrated her ability to adapt to change and took the challenges of each position in stride.

"The challenges," she said, are what she'll miss the most.

"No two days were ever alike," said Bazluki. "Every day was a different challenge."

Bazluki retired this month. She was honored with a farewell party at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte July 31.

"In each of the subsequent jobs she has undertaken with CSS, she has demonstrated dedication, compassion and a remarkable skill for organization and implementation of services," said Elizabeth Thurbee executive director of CSS.

"Initially, she was a foster parent and opened her home and her heart to pregnant women who needed a safe place," said Thurbee.

Bazluki said she opened her home to pregnant women because she wanted to provide an alternative to abortion.

"Being Catholic, I always thought that while we didn't believe in abortion you couldn't just tell somebody 'no,'" she said, "you had to provide an alternative."

After years of volunteering, she earned a reputation for her reliability and her willingness to help.

It wasn't long before she was asked to assist in other areas of CSS.

First, she was asked to put her accounting background to use in the Refugee Resettlement Office.

"They were literally three months behind," she said, "so the challenge was not only to catch it up, but then to set up the accounting system."

Then in 1979, she heard about the

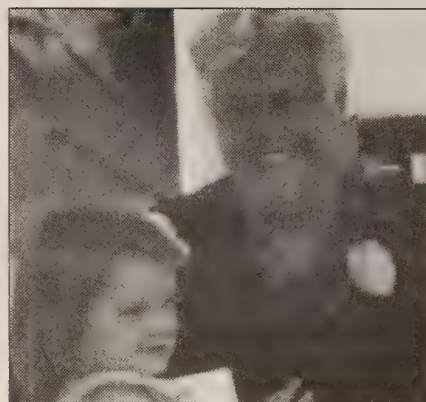


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Raury Bazluki watches as her grandmother Barbara Bazluki opens presents during her retirement party at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte July 31. Bazluki retired this month after 30 years of working with Catholic Social Services.

impending arrival of 100 Cambodian refugees to be resettled in Charlotte. She knew she wanted to help, so she asked for the job.

During that year "everything kind of fell into place," said Bazluki, whose primary responsibility was helping the refugees find homes and jobs.

"I found an apartment complex that was completely empty and had been

newly renovated. I found a company that was starting up and expanding and hired all my heads of households, and I got all the kids enrolled in school," she said.

When her work was complete she left CSS. Less than one week later, they asked her to come back.

This time Bazluki worked as an assistant in the Refugee Resettlement Office, where she would eventually become director — a position she held for about 10 years.

"When she was hired as director of the Refugee Resettlement Office, she turned her considerable talents toward helping newly arrived refugees adjust to life in the United States," said Thurbee.

"One of the neatest things was working with the refugees," said Bazluki. "You would go to the airport and pick up broken human beings. And within three to six months they were healthy and vibrant and productive members of society again. It was like a complete rebirth."

Now that she is retired, Bazluki plans to travel and get things done around her house.

"I'm not in a hurry to do anything," she said, "just take one day at a time and enjoy it."

# Catholic woman works to strengthen sex offender laws

LAW, from page 1

sentence and a maximum of life in prison for first-time child sex offenders.

Known more commonly as "Jessica's Law," the act was first passed in Florida in 2005 and was named after Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a sexual predator who had previously been convicted of sex crimes against a child.

The North Carolina signing took place in Gaston County, where Jessica Lunsford was born and lived with her father until they moved to Florida when she was 8 years old.

"All the laws that are passed — Jessica's law, Amber Alert, Megan's Law — they are all named after dead children," said Morrison. "To me, that is the sad part about it."

"The happy part," she said, "is that for years to come, this law will protect children here in North Carolina and other states around the country and hopefully there won't be anymore Jessicas or Ambers or Megans."

Morrison, who has been advocating on behalf of Jessica's Law for the past three years, views her efforts as a mission from God.

"It was never for me," said Morrison. "I did this for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. He wanted me to do something to help the children."

She recalled praying before the image of the Divine Mercy at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro in October 2005 when she heard a voice that said, "Help the children. You can help the children."

At the time, "I didn't know what that

"I did it for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. He wanted me to do something to help the children."

— Janet Morrison

meant," said Morrison.

"A few days later on one of the television news shows, they talked about Jessica Lunsford," she said.

Morrison remembers watching the program and seeing a map designating states that were lacking strong legislation to protect children from sexual offenders — North Carolina was one of those states.

Then she heard the broadcaster say, "Find out how you can help the children."

"And I said to my husband, 'This is what we are supposed to do. This is what God wants us to do.'"

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

- The Protecting God's Children program utilized in the Diocese of Charlotte educates and trains adults (clergy, religious, teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents) about the dangers of abuse, the warning signs of abuse, the ways to prevent abuse, the methods of properly reporting suspicions of abuse, and responding to allegations of abuse.
- The program began in response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (charter) issued by the U.S. bishops in 2002.
- To date there have been 690 workshops held throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.
- 18,200 people have participated in the program.
- 17,400 background checks have been processed.

Not sure exactly where to begin, Morrison started by contacting Joe Dawson, founder and C.E.O. of Child Protection Coalition who had lobbied on behalf of the Jessica Lunsford Act in Florida.

Dawson gave Morrison permission to use his petition.

She spent the next three years traveling across the state, speaking to groups of all sizes and gathering signatures in support of the act.

"I come here and I ask you for your signature on a piece of paper to show your support of children," she told the groups.

"And so that was my mission," said Morrison. "And I was happy to tell the story everywhere I went."

"I just think it is important for people to know that God works miracles and uses us if we listen and we pay attention," she added.

"If we listen, God talks to us all the time. We just have to open our ears and our hearts," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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## FROM THE COVER

# Parishioners donate food to help poor in Haiti

HAITI, from page 1

the Missionaries of the Poor is an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor, according to the order's Web site.

The order, which has grown to more than 500 brothers, serves the poor around the globe with missions in Jamaica, India, the Philippines, Uganda, Kenya and Haiti.

## Taking initiative

The Haiti Food Drive at St. Matthew Church was started by parishioner Joe George in 2003.

George had visited Cap Haitien in 2002 and was shocked by the level of poverty and the extreme need for food.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with approximately 80 percent of families living below the poverty line, according to the Central Intelligence Agency.

For them, "a good day is when the kids are healthy and they get enough to eat," said Mark Creasser, who took over the food drive in 2006.

Creasser recalled his first visit to Haiti in 2005: "I went down there thinking that I was going to help them," he said.

## WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the Missionaries of the Poor, visit their Web site at [www.missionariesofthepoor.org](http://www.missionariesofthepoor.org).

But after the first day he knew he was going to get more out of the experience than he could ever put in.

"They were helping me realize how blessed I am," said Creasser.

## A growing need

This year the food drive is needed more than ever as the cost of food continues to climb.

"Prices are up quite a bit from last year," said Creasser, "so for the parish that was a bit more of a struggle."

Last year it cost \$9 for a 50-pound bag of rice, according to Creasser. This year that same bag of rice costs \$25.

The cost of food in Haiti is even higher than it is here in the United States. As a result, many Haitian families have cut back to eating only one meal a day or every other day.

"The crazy thing to me is that they're really happy and content with what they have," said volunteer Brian Nelson.

Nelson, a 19-year-old student at Lynchburg College in Virginia, saw the extent of Third World-type poverty firsthand while on a mission trip with his family to Jamaica in 2004.

"It was way beyond anything you could ever imagine," he said.

"With a lot of food drives, you don't see where the food is actually going," said Nelson.

It's different when "you've actually seen the people who need this food," he added.

## No small task

It takes a lot of people to make it happen, according to Lucie Tonon, who assisted Creasser in coordinating

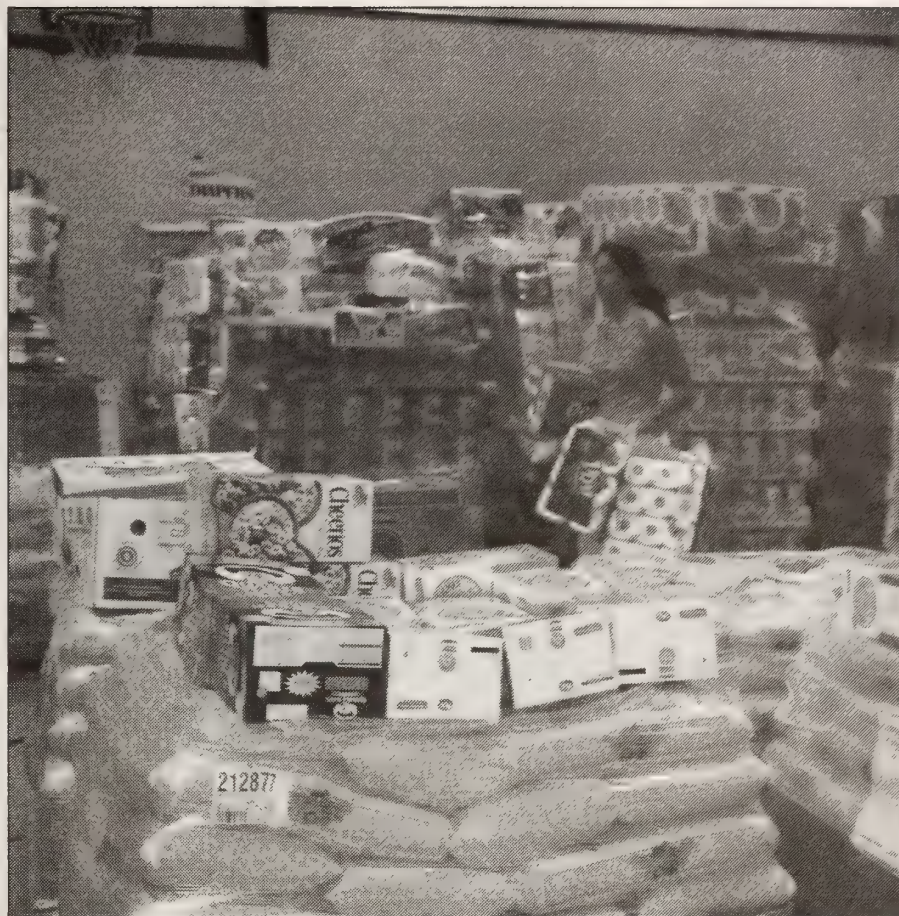


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

A volunteer walks through the maze of food and supplies in the St. Matthew Church gym July 27. Volunteers helped organize and pack more than 100,000 pounds of donated goods to be sent to the Missionaries of the Poor in Haiti. The shipment will leave from Charleston, S.C., and arrive in Haiti in mid-September.

the food drive.

"The most exciting part is seeing how the committee has grown," said Tonon, who has seen it expand from about 12 volunteers in 2006 to more than 30 this year.

"All of our parishioners have responded so enthusiastically to this effort," she said.

The food drive has also had the support of Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor.

"Six years ago one of our parishioners, Joe George, brought to my attention this unique and desperate situation in Haiti," said McSweeney.

"I believe it's important that we as a parish community respond to this global effort to assist those who are less fortunate than ourselves," he said.

## The next step

Creasser will go down to Haiti in mid-September when the food arrives to make sure it gets to the right location.

The hope is that eventually Haiti will become self-sufficient in food production. The Missionaries of the Poor currently have a working farm and recently received a donation of 500 chickens.

"We need to get these farmers back on the farms," said Creasser.

"Short term we're committed to having food drives," he said, "but long term we need to encourage every way we can to have them grow and support their own food products."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

## Seeking healing and forgiveness after an abortion?

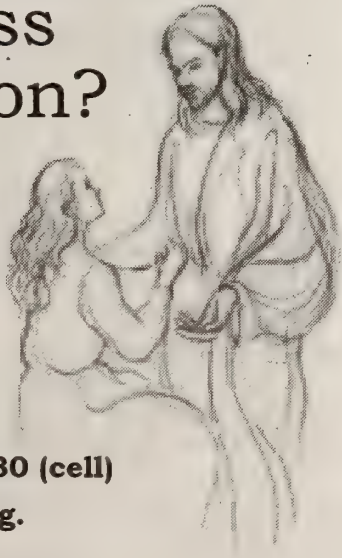
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## Taking up the cross

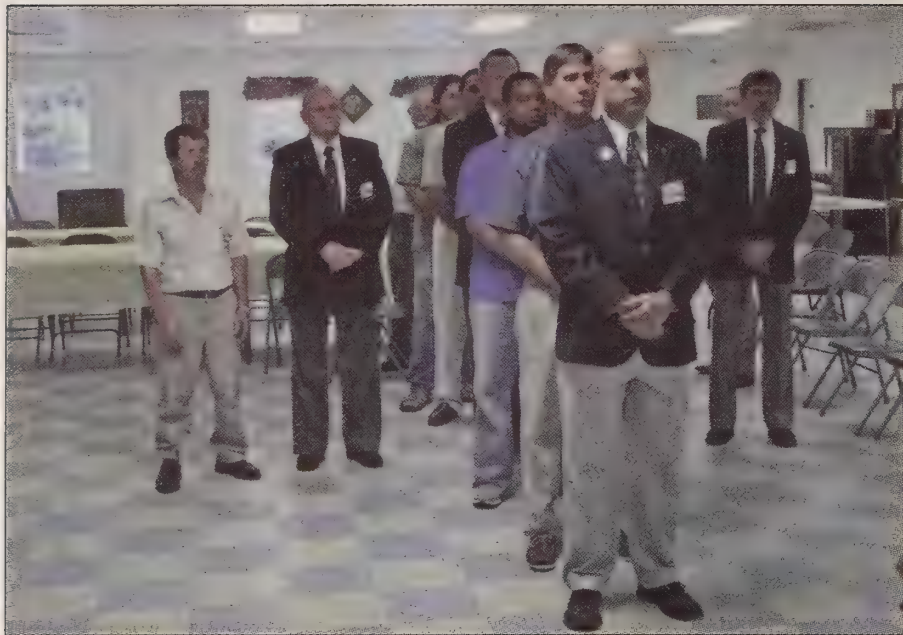


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Above: Men stand in the shape of a cross during the installation of new officers to the Knights of Columbus Immaculate Mary Council 6970 at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville July 20. New officers include Grand Knight Christopher Neubauer, Deputy Grand Knight Michael Smith, Chancellor Arnold Brown, Recorder Lawrence Amann, Treasurer Joseph Merchak, Advocate Steve Zdanski (not pictured), Warden Donald Hock, Inside Guards Manuel Rodriguez (not pictured) and Anthony McGoldrick, Outside Guard Enrique Silva, First-year Trustee Steve Hale, Third-year Trustee Andy Feldhouse and Financial Secretary George Brewer.

Below: Oblate Father Joseph Tustin, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville and chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 8509, stands with the newly-elected officers and members of Council 8509 after Mass June 18. Knights District Warden Jerome Dixon (right of Father Tustin) bestowed medallions of office upon the new officers, and District Deputy Marshall Perry (front, right) served as master of ceremonies.

Also pictured is Warden Herb Pennington, Grand Knight Guy Harley, Chancellor Anthony Belline, Recorder Sal Vita, Financial Secretary Bruce Badin, Outside Guard Mike Hamilton, Inside Guard Carl Darkes, past Grand Knight and First-year Trustee Lance Cancro, past Grand Knight Fred Schaefer standing in for Third-year Trustee Jean Dion Trustee, past Grand Knight Richard Meyer standing in for Advocate Phillip Lamendola, Armand Mosca standing in for Treasurer Dave Shepherd, Joseph Lozano standing in for Second-year Trustee Charles Evans II and Deputy Grand Knight Steve Salvitti.



COURTESY PHOTO BY FRED HOGAN

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## Remembering the martyrs



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOHN GOULDIE

Augustinian Father James Cassidy, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, and fourth-degree members of Knights of Columbus Council 10615 and members of two other Knights councils are pictured at the church July 17 with the relics of six of the 25 Mexican martyrs canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000. The relics were brought to several churches in the Diocese of Charlotte as part of a 10-day pilgrimage throughout North Carolina, part of a nationwide tour sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Each of the martyrs had been a priest and a member of the Knights of Columbus. All 25 martyrs were killed during the persecution of the church in Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# For the LAMBs among us

## Knights, Columbiettes present check to St. Matthew Church

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes at St. Matthew Church recently gave \$4,000 to the parish's special religious education program.

Richard White, grand knight of Council 10852, and Sara Warnecke, president of the Columbiettes Auxiliary 10852, presented the check to Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, during the council's installation banquet for new officers in the parish's New Life Center June 28.

The funds were provided through the LAMB Foundation of N.C., a nonprofit public charity — supported by Knights of Columbus councils throughout the state — that assists the intellectually disabled.

The foundation's name, LAMB, is derived from the Gospel of Matthew 25:40: "Whatsoever you do to the least among my brethren, that you do also to me."

For the past 34 years, Knights of Columbus in North Carolina have raised funds for the foundation through their "Operation LAMB" Tootsie Roll campaigns, soliciting donations at retail

locations while handing out Tootsie Rolls.

Recently, corporate and individual donations also have become a major source of funding for the foundation.

The Knights are assisted in LAMB fundraising by the Columbiettes, the women's auxiliary, and the Columbian Squires, a youth group for males under the age of 18, who volunteer hundreds of hours throughout the year.

During the June 28 banquet, Msgr. McSweeney thanked those in attendance for their efforts and described how the parish's special religious education programs have blossomed dramatically over the last few years.

In particular, the parish's S.P.R.E.D. ministry, which serves parishioners with intellectual disabilities, has tripled in size in the past three years and is now assisting other parishes in the area with starting similar programs.

"The Knights of Columbus of St. Matthew recognize the importance of supporting and fostering the growth of the parish's special religious education programs," said White.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sara Warnecke (left), Columbiettes Auxiliary 10852 president, and Richard White, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 10852, present a \$4,000 check to Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, and Father Patrick Toole, parochial vicar, during a Knights installation ceremony at the parish June 28.

"We are happy to help in any way we can to ensure they flourish. Programs such as these help us truly support the least among our brethren while fostering a sense of community and a more meaningful spiritual life," he said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Knights of Columbus Council 10852, visit [www.kofc-stmatthew.org](http://www.kofc-stmatthew.org). For more information on the Columbiettes Auxiliary 10852, visit <http://home.catholicweb.com/Columbiettes/>



COURTESY PHOTO

John Gouldie (left), Knights of Columbus N.C. state deputy, and Bill Scott (right), past state deputy, are pictured with Maria Morrow, the first resident of Holy Angels in Belmont, and Regina Moody, Holy Angels CEO and president, at the facility July 3. The Knights presented a \$20,000 check to Holy Angels.

# Knights help Holy Angels

## Funds will provide covered walkway for residents

BELMONT — Holy Angels recently received a \$20,000 check from the LAMB Foundation of North Carolina

John Gouldie, state deputy of the Knights of Columbus, and Bill Scott, past state deputy, presented the check to Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels, July 3.

Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides programs and services for its residents — children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

The donated funds will provide for the installation of a canopy over the sidewalk connecting the Moody Place group home and the Morrow Center, where the residents attend school. The covered walkway will allow for a drier, more comfortable walk to and from school during inclement weather.

The LAMB Foundation of North Carolina is a nonprofit public charity

— supported by Knights of Columbus councils throughout the state — that assists the intellectually disabled.

For the past 34 years, Knights of Columbus in North Carolina have raised funds for the foundation through their "Operation LAMB" Tootsie Roll campaigns, soliciting donations at retail locations while handing out Tootsie Rolls.

Gouldie and Scott toured the Holy Angels facility and were impressed with the scope of the programs and services offered, especially the high level of medical care provided to the residents.

They enjoyed seeing firsthand the difference that the many donations from the Knights of Columbus councils to Holy Angels have made over the years.

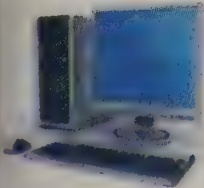
### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Holy Angels, visit [www.holyangelsnc.org](http://www.holyangelsnc.org).



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## Celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year?

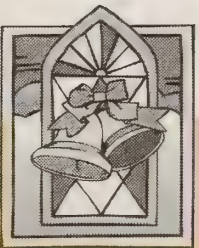
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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Farmer says working the land deepens his Catholic faith

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — For Curt Arens, working the land of his grandparents' farm along Bow Creek in Crofton not only brings him pleasure and a source of income, but also deepens his Catholic faith.

Raised on that land, the 44-year-old Arens writes about learning how to farm and the importance of his Catholic faith in his first book, "Down to Earth: Celebrating a Blessed Life on the Land."

Arens' 110-page book is filled with short stories about his upbringing and the people who impacted his life — his family and friends and those in his parish and community. It traces his development as a farmer and a Catholic.

"The book is a tribute to the sacredness of rural life, particularly those hardworking, generous people in my own community," Arens said. "It is about the faith and farm lessons I've learned from my parents and grandparents, from my wife, children and in-laws, and from my neighbors and friends."

Arens tells about growing up on the family farm, imparting his personal stories about the details of farm life, of being a good steward, experiencing college and eventually marrying and taking over the family farm from his parents, all with faith at the base of each story.

A veteran freelance writer, Arens and his wife, Donna, have three children.

Arens said he wrote "Down to Earth" because he felt there was a need for more materials and books for rural Catholics and Christians that focus on the unique aspects of being in a rural parish and community and on a family farm.

He said the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, based in Des Moines, Iowa, is a "great organization" that works in this arena, and he wanted to write the book to add something to what is already out there.

"I also think farming is maligned by young people as a career choice because it appears too difficult and poverty-stricken," he said. "It is difficult, sometimes grueling."

"However, there are important rewards in raising a family in a rural area, wrapping oneself in the safety and loving embrace of a close-knit rural parish and community, and being closer than most to God's wonderful creation," he added.

Arens spoke of two messages in the book: that food should never be taken for granted and the importance of deep devotion to the Eucharist and the Mass.

"We have gotten so used to cheap and plentiful food, but family farmers know that food is never guaranteed," he said. "A few minutes of hail or a few weeks of drought can destroy a crop before our very eyes. Months of labor and expense can be dashed away in short order. We truly need to value the gift of food from our Creator."

Jesus could have chosen any medium in which to be present at the Mass, but during the Last Supper he chose the bread, a product of wheat from the fields, and wine, a product of the vine — both agricultural products — to be present every time Mass is celebrated, he said.

"The consecration is a sacred time — one of truly solemn awe — and as Catholics and farmers, we have a special appreciation for this great gift of his presence with us in these products of the land," he said.

Arens said his faith is strong, but still forming. "I am a Catholic who goes through the rhythm of faith like anyone else. However, I have a deep devotion — dating back to my preparation for first Communion with Sister Veronica Wolff at St. Rose of Lima School — to the holy Eucharist and I love the Mass," Arens said.

"I also am keenly aware of God's presence not only at Mass, but in the fields and meadows that I have the honor to steward over," he said.

He said he learns something new about his faith every day from God, his pastor, his family and his friends.

"And believe me," he said, "I'm paying attention."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 17, 2008

Aug. 17, Twentieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 56:1, 6-7  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
- 2) Romans 11:13-15, 29-32  
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

### Jesus' teachings will nourish our salvation

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'd been hearing about my friend's housemate, Joe, for awhile before I actually met him. My friend Guy was a leader in our parish, but he also had many rich and interesting involvements outside church life. As I picked up bits and pieces about Joe through Guy's offhand comments, he certainly seemed to fit into the "interesting" category.

Joe was a disabled, working-class guy, a good bit older than Guy, who offered to let him move into his house because he was homeless. I don't know where they met, but they had a friendship that was only occasionally strained by the fact that Guy provided for most of Joe's material needs.

Joe was "unchurched" and not from our community. But after a few months he began coming to church with Guy to

meet some new people, and he sort of latched onto his friend's friends.

I was surprised to see that the two men had little in common. Guy was artistic, highly educated, with a deep, broad spirituality. Joe was pretty simple, in poor health and indigent.

A gentleman, Joe didn't push himself on anyone. He slowly immersed himself into the community, one friend at a time. Joe was interested in every person he met and was naturally compassionate. He found ways to "do" for many people in need in the parish. Soon he was practically a fixture at the church at Bible studies, serving at social events and ushering at Mass.

Joe's story reminds me of the woman in this weekend's Gospel. A Canaanite, she wasn't one of the "chosen" people Jesus had come to serve — and he told her so. But she knew him and believed in his saving power, so she insisted on hanging around him, feeding on the "scraps" of his offering. Drawn by her unquestioning faith, Jesus assured the woman of her salvation.

For Joe, the scraps from Jesus that he found in the church community were food enough, but his great faith drew him ever more deeply into the Savior's infinite grace.

#### Questions:

What offerings do you expect to receive as a member of Jesus' family? In what ways does your fundamental faith need to grow?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 10-16

Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33; Monday (St. Clare), Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28, Matthew 17:22-27; Tuesday, Ezekiel 2:8-3:4, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; Wednesday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus), Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22, Matthew 18:15-20; Thursday (St. Maximilian Kolbe), Ezekiel 12:1-2, Matthew 18:21-19:1; Friday (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; Saturday (St. Stephen of Hungary), Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32, Matthew 19:13-15.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 17-23

Sunday (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Romans 11:13-15, 29-32, Matthew 15:21-28; Monday (St. Jane Frances de Chantal), Ezekiel 24:15-24, Deuteronomy 32:18-21, Matthew 19:16-22; Tuesday (St. John Eudes), Ezekiel 28:1-10, Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35-36, Matthew 19:23-30; Wednesday (St. Bernard), Ezekiel 34:1-11, Matthew 20:1-16; Thursday (St. Pius X), Ezekiel 36:23-28, Matthew 22:1-14; Friday (The Queenship of Mary), Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 22:34-40; Saturday (St. Rosa of Lima), Ezekiel 43:1-7, Matthew 23:1-12.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 24-30

Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20; Monday (St. Louis of France, St. Joseph Calasanz), 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12, Matthew 23:13-22; Tuesday, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17, Matthew 23:23-26; Wednesday (St. Monica), 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18, Matthew 23:27-32; Thursday (St. Augustine), 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Matthew 24:42-51; Friday (Martyrdom of John the Baptist), 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, Mark 6:17-29; Saturday, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 25:14-30.

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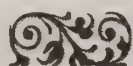
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# "We have nothing."

**A** mother's desperation and despair trickle down her cheeks with each teardrop. She sobs as she describes her family's situation.

Amarante Desir and her family live in Cité Soleil, the worst slum in Haiti. Living in the poorest country in our hemisphere, this family and many others struggle each day simply to survive.

The Desir family lives in a shack made of scraps of metal, wood and cardboard. The roof leaks when it rains, and the dirt floor turns into mud. Outside, trash and human waste litter the landscape. Amarante whispers, "There's a lot of germs here. The kids get sick a lot."



**Many Haitians  
earn less than  
\$2 a day.  
Their struggle  
for survival  
is constant.**



Amarante often has nothing to feed her family. When she and her children are hungry, the pain in her heart is far worse than the pain of hunger. Watching your children suffer is heartbreaking for a loving mother.

When she has no food or money, Amarante prays to God for help and comfort. God is her strength and refuge. She says, "I feel better after I pray, knowing that God will not leave me, but will give me strength. I feel God's presence when I pray."



Food and fuel prices have skyrocketed throughout the world recently. These increases impact us all, but it is the poor who are affected the most. Mothers like Amarante — who helplessly watch their children suffer — experience this painful reality every day.

**"The LORD is close to  
the brokenhearted,  
saves those whose spirit is  
crushed." (Psalm 34:19.)**

Hungry families throughout the Caribbean and Latin America pray daily that God will touch the heart of someone like you to send a gift for food. Today, you have the power to bring relief to families in desperate need.

By partnering with Food For The Poor, you can help feed hungry children and their families. Your gift of \$45 will feed 15 people for an entire month. A gift of \$81 will provide lifesaving food for 27 people, and \$150 will feed 50 people for a month. Any act of kindness and generosity will be truly appreciated.

Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor works to end the suffering of the poor throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Not only do we provide food for the starving; we also build small houses for the destitute, dig water wells for parched villagers, provide medicine and medical equipment for the sick and elderly, support orphanages and education for children, and much more.

Despairing mothers like Amarante plead for help. "Things are not good for us," she says. "Whatever you can do will help. We have nothing. We're not eating or sleeping."

Today, you can answer a desperate mother's heartfelt plea with your gift for food. The Food For The Poor brochure enclosed in this publication contains more information about how you can help hungry families with nowhere else to turn. Your compassion and generosity will be shining reflections of God's love and an answer to the prayers of those who are hungry. Please, send a gift today.

**"If there's any way  
you can help us..."**



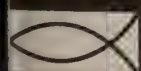
**Heartbroken by her hungry children's  
suffering, Amarante Desir prays to  
God for help and comfort.**

## Your help is needed now more than ever

Food shortages and rising prices are devastating for the poorest of the poor in Haiti. The price of rice and beans has more than doubled in the past year; yet many Haitians earn less than \$2 a day. The struggle for survival has become increasingly difficult. Lives are at stake.

Today you have the chance to save a life. The need for food in Haiti is urgent and desperate.

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## Lemonade brigade



COURTESY PHOTO

Sam, Charlie, Lucy and Sarah Cochran work a homemade lemonade stand at a Charlotte neighborhood pool June 21. Their effort was part of the Crayons Pink Lemonade Stand project, a mission component of their vacation Bible school program at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte to raise funds for the Catholic Social Services food pantry. The siblings raised \$120 and their mother, Natalie Cochran, brought them to CSS's administrative office in Charlotte to deliver the money July 14.

## Catholic Scout earns Eagle rank

**HICKORY** — Daniel Patrick Aberle, 16, of Boy Scout Troop 351 recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

Family and friends gathered for Mass celebrated May 31 at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory by Father Bob Ferris, pastor. A court of honor ceremony followed.

To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, Daniel earned 25 merit badges and completed a service project at Bakers Mountain Park in Catawba County. The project involved building a memorial to a soldier, Pfc. A.G. Clark of Catawba County, who was killed in action during WWII at age 22.

The memorial, which is made of local stone and includes a bronze plaque and lithographic photo of Clark, is located at the cabin site where he resided.

In Troop 351, Daniel held the offices of patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and librarian. Daniel also earned the Arrow of Light award, the highest award of Cub Scouts, and the only one that can be carried over into the Boy Scouts.

Daniel is an active member of Life Teen at St. Aloysius Church and serves



COURTESY PHOTO

Daniel Patrick Aberle, 16, of Boy Scout Troop 351 recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

as altar server at St. Joseph Church in Newton, where he is a parishioner.

He is a founding member of the Holy Crusaders Club, a Catholic service-oriented boys club.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

## Helping the hungry



COURTESY PNC

Molly Patella and Grace Nieters are pictured with food they helped collect during a vacation Bible school event at Holy Family Church in Clemmons in June. As part of the program's mission component, children were asked to bring in food for the Catholic Social Services food pantry in Winston-Salem. Each day they collected a different type of food — cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta and peanut butter and jelly. By the end of the week on June 27, they were able to fill the trunk of a car and the bed of a pickup truck with the collected food.

### Immigration Specialist (Winston-Salem)



CSS

The Piedmont Triad Office of Catholic Social Services is seeking an immigration specialist for its Casa Guadalupe Program. Applicants should have high school diploma, be detail-oriented, proficient in computer data entry, and have the ability to travel both in-state and out-of-state to participate in required trainings and meetings. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills and be fluent in English and Spanish. Must have experience that would provide knowledge of diverse cultures. Both full-time and part-time positions available. Cover letter and resume should be e-mailed to [dcbullard@Charlottediocese.org](mailto:dcbullard@Charlottediocese.org).

### Counselor and Program Manager Positions

**Room At The Inn**, a residential and outreach program for pregnant women and their children in the Charlotte area, has 2 open positions:

**Bilingual Counselor:** A degreed / licensed counselor, fluent in Spanish is required part-time to provide client case assessment, management and counseling. Must be excellent social worker and record keeper.

**Program Manager:** Fulltime position will oversee the daily operations of our Residential and Outreach programs. BSW degree, 3 years experience and safe driving record required. Send resumes to: [DebbieCapen@rati.org](mailto:DebbieCapen@rati.org)



### Classifieds

FOR RENT

**OCEANFRONT CONDO** — Great weather and vacation opportunities await! Enjoy off-season fall rate where the water is warm and recreation abounds. Carolina Beach near Wilmington - 2 BD/2 BA. Only \$700/wk after Labor Day. Check out our long weekend special! 703-450-8480 or [wfkelle@aol.com](mailto:wfkelle@aol.com).

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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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# REVIVAL

## "REVIVAL OF THE SPIRIT 2008"

**Thursday, August 21 — "He is our Healer: Finding Healing through the Eucharist"**

**Friday, August 22 — "Getting a Renewed Attitude through the Beatitudes"**

**Saturday, August 23 — "Running the Good Race and Sowing Seeds for the Kingdom:  
True Discipleship for This Generation"**

**Sunday, August 24 — "He Knows Me and I Know Him!"**

**Our revivalist is Fr. Norman Fischer, a dynamic diocesan priest from Lexington, Ky.**

Fr. Norman, 34 years old, was joyfully ordained in the Jubilee Year on May 27, 2000. He received his Bachelor of Science in both psychology and art from Centre College and earned his Master of Divinity from Mundelein Seminary, the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Fr. Norman enjoys using rap, song, drama and art in his evangelization and dynamic preaching for Our Lord Jesus Christ. He believes that through the graces provided in our sacraments, especially our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist, we will become our best and truest selves!

Currently, he serves as the full-time chaplain of Lexington Catholic High School and parish priest of St. Peter Claver Church near downtown Lexington. Fr. Norman has been blessed to be able to travel extensively throughout the United States, preaching a message of hope and healing for God's youth, young adults and elders. Fr. Norman believes that, "If we are to move ahead in society as Catholic Church, we must move

within, discovering the power of our sacraments and the power of God's mercy and love!!!"

*Sponsored by*  
**African American Affairs Ministry  
of the Diocese of Charlotte**

A "roaming revival" with many meeting sites – Greensboro, Gastonia and Charlotte! Now it's more convenient for you, your family and your friends to participate!

**Thursday, August 21** *through*  
**Sunday, August 24**

**Revival of the Spirit has been a Spirit-filled renewal of faith and spiritually enriching experience for the past 10 years! Come and bring your family and friends – ALL faiths are welcome!**

**Looking forward to seeing you there!!!! Mark your calendars – you will be surely blessed!**

### REVIVAL SERVICES

**Thursday, August 21 and Friday, August 22**

6:45 pm — St. Mary Catholic Church  
812 Duke Street, Greensboro, NC 27401

**Saturday, August 23**

6:45 pm — St. Helen Catholic Church  
341 Dallas-Spencer Mountain Road, Gastonia, NC 28056

### REVIVAL MASSES

**Sunday, August 24**

Our Lady of Consolation Church  
2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28206

8 am — Mass

11 am — Youth Mass

**For more information, call 704-370-3267 or 704-641-3108. Someone will return your call.**



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Strength is virtue, and virtue is strength

*Strength myth is spiritual problem in need of attention*

When you were a child, did you ever invite an elder to "feel my muscle"?

Little boys and girls alike, but mostly boys, will extend an arm, clench a fist, bend an elbow and stare at the slightest hint of a bulging bicep in the upper arm, saying, "See how strong I am!"

Boys at play (perhaps girls as well) like to adopt strong names. "Call me Steve," was a familiar request in my own childhood circle of friends that included no one named Stephen. "Bobby," "Billy" or "George" just wouldn't do it. Neither would "Jimmy," even in those days of tough-guy Jimmy Cagney movies where the hoodlum was the hero and the cops often objects of ridicule.

"Let me carry him" (usually a younger brother). "I can lift it" (often a piece of porch furniture).

We can all recall our participation in claims or demonstrations of physical strength in those tender years before we ever heard of hernias. The strength myth (strong man, strong woman, strong arm, strong will, strong statement, strong medicine) persists to the point of locking our minds and emotions into some kind of strongbox to which we have lost the key.

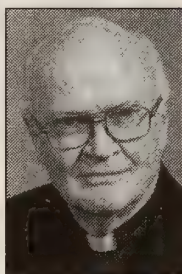
This key will open us up to tears, admissions of error or defeat, and an open declaration that we stand in need of help. This is a spiritual problem that needs attention.

Bravery is sometimes prideful ignorance, and ignorance can leave one blissfully unaware of where the real dangers lurk. Strength is virtue, and virtue is strength. The virtuous person will become strongest in the broken places.

This season of summer fun and games is a good time to think seriously about teaching our children the real meaning of strength and especially the relationship of strength to virtue. All of us, young or old, need to be reminded

## Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
WILLIAM J.  
BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



that we can, by God's grace, become strong in our broken places.

Job loss, health setbacks, marital stress, geopolitical problems and personal tensions large or small can drain anyone's strength. I can still hear my exasperated mother saying, "God give me strength!" in reaction to the summertime carelessness of her offspring who hit baseballs through garage-door windows and, on one otherwise unchallenging summer day, dug a large hole behind our house in the first stage of a children's tunnel project intended to connect Philadelphia with Peking.

Perhaps we should make "God, give me strength" a national prayer in these days of soaring gasoline prices, plummeting real estate values, rising unemployment rates, urban crime, highway mishaps and a lengthening list of societal problems.

Many of these problems are likely to get worse over the next few decades. Those who will then be in the driver's seat of any vehicle designed to move us toward social progress are the very youngsters that are enjoying their fun and freedom this summer.

They need adult encouragement now to understand that real strength is strength of character and that qualities like creativity, courage and intellectual competence are the muscles most in need of development.

## The faithful pioneers

*Sisters of Mercy start new chapter of service in North Carolina*

This July, unnoticed by most of us, a new chapter was added to one of the longest, continuous stories of the Catholic Church in North Carolina. The North Carolina Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy joined together with communities from St. Louis, Cincinnati and Baltimore to form a new and expanded South-Central Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

The Sisters of Mercy in Belmont were pioneers in both the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh. They trace their roots back to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, now the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, a congregation in Charleston, S.C., founded by Bishop John England.

In September 1869, Sisters from that community arrived in Wilmington, N.C., where a month later they opened the Academy of the Incarnation. The Sisters formed their own North Carolina community in 1872 and, in 1913, accepted the rule written by Mother Catherine McAuley and became affiliated with the Sisters of Mercy as an independent religious community of pontifical right.

The Sisters began Catholic education in North Carolina. In addition to the academy in Wilmington, they established Mount St. Joseph Academy in Hickory in 1880, and schools in Charlotte in 1887, Asheville in 1888 and Belmont in 1892.

For more than 70 years, the Sisters of Mercy staffed the Catholic orphanage at Nazareth, near Raleigh. Nazareth had been founded by Father Thomas Price, one of the first North Carolina priests, whose sister, Sister Mary Catherine Price, was a member of the Mercy community.

The Sisters were active as well in numerous schools in the dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte. Two particularly significant contributions of the Sisters of Mercy for Catholic education are Charlotte Catholic High School and Sacred Heart College.

The Sisters were the teachers at O'Donoghue School at St. Patrick Church in Charlotte when, in 1955, Charlotte Catholic High School was begun as a separate school for boys. The Sisters continued to administrate Our Lady of Mercy High School for girls.

When the Marianist brothers left Charlotte Catholic, the Sisters of Mercy stepped in to continue with a coeducational program that saved Catholic secondary education in Charlotte. It is due to their generous service that Charlotte Catholic has survived and flourished as the institution it is today.

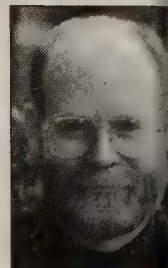
The Sisters came to Belmont in 1892 and established their motherhouse there. They began a girls' academy in 1892 to serve as a finishing school for young ladies. From this beginning, Sacred Heart College emerged as a junior college in 1935 and a senior college in 1966.

In 1987, financial constraints forced the closing of Sacred Heart College, which was one of only two Catholic colleges in the Southeast between northern Virginia and Florida.

The health care ministry of the Sisters began in the midst of a yellow fever epidemic in Wilmington in the

## Guest Column

ABBOT PLACID  
SOLARI  
GUEST COLUMNIST



1860s. Through Mercy Hospital Charlotte, established in 1906, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, begun originally as a tuberculosis sanatorium, the Sisters provided quality health care permeated by faith and respect.

When these hospitals were so in the 1990s, the Sisters established one of the largest private foundations in the Carolinas to continue to address the educational and healthcare need especially of women and children.

The Sisters once again proved to be pioneers in North Carolina when at a time when AIDS was poorly understood and greatly feared, the established House of Mercy in Belmont as a residence for persons in the terminal stages of the disease.

They continued to reach out to those in need with the founding of Catherine House, a residence where homeless women could find shelter and assistance for themselves and their children.

Perhaps best known of all the work sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Holy Angels. This ministry began when a distraught young mother left her severely-handicapped infant daughter at the Sisters' doorstep.

Mercy Sister Marie Patrice Manly with the support of her community, took in this little girl, Maria, who is now well into her 50s. She was to be the first of countless children with special needs who have received the love and compassion of this special work.

Holy Angels has grown to be a regionally respected development center for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation.

The work of the Sisters of Mercy extended far beyond the Southeast. In 1946, a U.S. Marine returning home from Gastonia from the Pacific approached the Sisters about a foundation in Guam.

Mother Maura Buchheit requested three volunteers for the mission. The result is a thriving community of Sisters on Guam, which has maintained affiliation with the Belmont community and become a part of the new South Central Community.

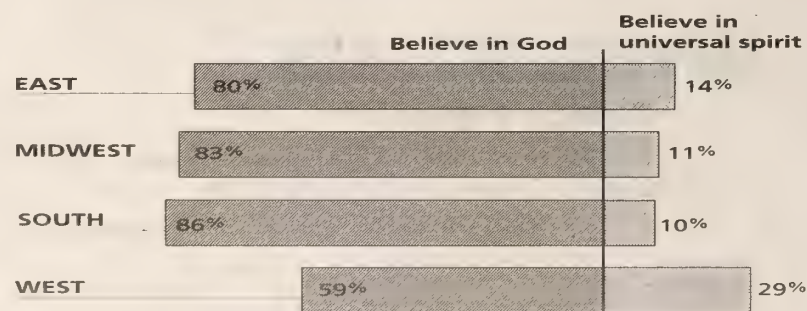
For 139 years, the Sisters of Mercy have built up the church in North Carolina by fidelity to their vow to serve the poor, the sick and the uneducated. The new chapter now beginning in this story holds promise of further blessing.

We N.C. Catholics, beneficiaries of the Sisters' labors, ought to take note of this new chapter as a part of our own story and accompany the Sisters of Mercy with our prayers and good wishes.

*Abbot Placid Solari is abbot of Belmont Abbey.*

## Belief in God

The percentage of U.S. adults who say they believe in God is lowest in the West.



Survey based on telephone interviews with 1,017 U.S. adults, conducted May 8-11, 2008. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points. Source: 2008 Gallup Poll

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# Planned giving and stewardship

*Giving back ensures the Catholic Church's mission continues*

"Planned giving" is a term that can sound imposing and confusing to many people. Simply stated, planned giving is charitable giving that is part of a family's overall financial and estate planning.

For people of faith, estate and financial planning is a key component of stewardship. Stewardship is realizing in our minds and hearts that everything we are and everything we have are God's loving gifts to us; we are merely stewards of those blessings.

There are four basic principles of stewardship:

- praying to God with grateful hearts;
- nurturing our family with time and love;
- sharing our gifts with our community; and
- returning to God the first fruits of our labors.

We understand these principles pretty well during our lives. We pray; we spend time with our families; we volunteer for ministries and activities in our parishes, schools, neighborhoods and communities; and we contribute funds to the Catholic Church and other charities that are important to us.

These same stewardship principles apply to our estate planning — our estate

plan can rightly be considered our final act of stewardship.

We should pray for God's guidance on the appropriate distribution of our estate property.

By making a will and executing other estate planning documents, we ensure that our family is taken care of after we are gone.

By making a bequest or other special gift to the church through our parish, school, the Diocese of Charlotte, the diocesan foundation or other Catholic agency, we help ensure that those ministries and activities we supported with our time, talent and treasure during our lives will continue to flourish for many future generations.

And certainly, these bequests and special gifts do in fact return to God the first fruits of our labors.

Estate and charitable gift planning is stewardship of our assets, just like our weekly offerings during our lives is stewardship of our income.

It is common, however, to plan our estate with everything eventually distributed to our family.

However, we should ask ourselves several questions as food for thought in determining our estate and financial goals and objectives:

## Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



— Is giving relatively large sums of money to my children when they are young a wise thing to do?

— Did I give everything to my children when I was alive, or did I give to the church and other charitable organizations as well?

— Is making a charitable bequest or other special gift in my estate plan my final opportunity to teach my children that everything we are and have is God's gift to us?

These are questions that only you can answer as you develop your estate and financial plan with your family and then review your plans periodically to determine if they continue to meet the goals and objectives of you and your loved ones.

*Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org).*

## What's behind all these shortage crises?

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



There is an old saying that multiple accidents need to happen before stoplights are installed at dangerous intersections.

The oil crisis and its repercussions, much like multiple accidents, are finally causing us to erect overdue stoplights, dramatically changing our way of life.

Take, for example, travel plans and patterns that are radically changing in order to conserve jet fuel. Recycling and innovative ways of conserving energy are hitting all-time highs.

Sales of hybrid cars are on the rise, and automobile companies are phasing out SUVs in favor of cars offering even greater gas mileage. Ridership on public transportation has jumped.

Giant windmills now dot the mountainsides of numerous states.

Not long ago all of this was nonexistent. Why the sudden change?

I believe it is because we are in what some refer to as a "Mother Nature" crisis, with Mother Nature adamantly teaching us that we can go to the well only so many times before it dries up. Sooner or later, our burgeoning and unrestrained populations are bound to dry up our natural resources.

We saw this coming but were too sluggish in erecting the stoplights needed to slow us down.

When asked what was behind the oil crisis, a mayor of a large city replied, "We are stuck on stupidity!"

The word "stupidity" means being sluggish in understanding. In our case, too many people who could have made a difference were sluggish in understanding that they were duped by the philosophy of secularism.

The word "secular" means being stuck on the temporal, living for the day and letting tomorrow take care of itself. It translates into not looking beyond our nose, being shortsighted; and it treats nature as if it isn't governed by definite laws.

Secularism is the direct antithesis to our Catholic faith that teaches we are God's stewards charged with caring for his world. A good steward is a guardian who is constantly scanning the horizons for oncoming dangers.

Could it be that the new stoplights, energy and food conservation efforts, are signs of a re-embracing of our God-giving duty of stewardship?

St. Augustine defines prudence as a virtue that helps us to "look, as it were, from afar."

Could it be we are entering a new age of prudence, one in which we are again looking afar rather than just beyond our noses?

## Critical of comprehensive reform

I am appalled at the suggestion that we consider rewarding illegal aliens under any circumstances into America ("Considering comprehensive reform," July 25).

According to the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants Web site, "the Catholic bishops are proposing an earned legalization for those in this country in an unauthorized status and who have built up equities and are otherwise admissible." By accepting this premise, we would be rewarding law breakers and criminals.

That policy, or any policy that offers any sanction to illegal immigrants for a nominal punishment, emboldens others to keep trying.

As a first-generation American, I am sickened by the conditions of these poor people's home countries and I strongly relate to their desire to immigrate to our great nation. In many instances, the immigrants pay their life savings to smugglers who abuse them or to be herded under unbearable conditions across the border. If they survive the journey, many end up in gang-controlled barrios (neighborhoods), and their children are indoctrinated into street gangs before their 14th birthdays.

Yes I am saddened that many families are being split by deportation. But by letting people stay, we are encouraging more to come in illegally and suffer under the hands of hardened criminals.

Unfortunately, history has taught us this.

— José M. Rodriguez  
High Shoals

## Mission trips to help Americans

I usually look forward to Father Peter Daly's Parish Diary column, but I take issue with his writing about mission trips ("Mission trips on the rise: Are they a good thing?" July 25).

Father Daly's response was that they are a good thing. But I disagree with his implication that there are no alternatives to a young person's mission trip except "some drunken 'beach week' in Cancun" and the only alternative for "retired folks" is to "spend money on five-star hotels."

I feel like the money spent on airline tickets by missionaries of any age would be far better spent on building materials and food for people in this country who are in need — from the poor in Appalachia to victims of flooding in the Midwest to those who have lost their homes to fires in the West.

For far less travel money, our missionaries could help rebuild homes and churches and prepare meals for firefighters and those who are trying to start over after losing everything. I know that our young parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church have worked hard to finance mission trips to places like Jamaica — this hard-earned money

## Letters to the Editor

could have gone far in aiding people in our own country.

Father Daly writes that we should "go only where invited." We can't expect pastors in every ravaged area to contact all other parishes asking for help. But I expect if we asked those pastors in devastated areas if they would like us to help, the answer would be "yes!"

They'd probably even offer floor space in churches, schools and gyms to visitors who brought sleeping bags — thus saving motel money for construction materials and food.

— Donna Coennen  
Franklin

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail [catholicnews@charlottediocese.org](mailto:catholicnews@charlottediocese.org).





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#### FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Greeting - Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Concert of Sacred Music for the Liturgical Season  
featuring a diocesan choir with 120 voices of praise
- Keynote Speaker - His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley, D.D., Ph.D.
- Catholic Shops



#### SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour - Homilist Archbishop John F. Donoghue
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

#### GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Tarek Saab  
"Faith Gut Check"



Fr. Richard Ho Lung  
"Love for the Eucharist in Serving the Poor"



Denis McNamara  
"Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture"



Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.  
"Proclaiming Christ through our Reverence  
for the Human Person"

#### HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Roberto Ramirez  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Hna. Bertha López Chávez  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Lupita Venegas  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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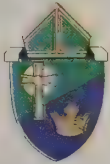


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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Contemplating God's time;  
'Humanae Vitae'; prayer  
for Eucharistic Congress

| PAGES 14-15

AUGUST 22, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 36

## 'Still Sowing the Seeds of Faith'



PHOTO BY BARBARA GADDY

Father Edward Sheridan, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, speaks with Bill Borst and Carl Larson outside a chapel on Father Sheridan's property in Hickory June 24. The photo appears on the poster for the diocesan Priests' Retirement & Benefits Collection, this year themed "Still Sowing the Seeds of Faith." The collection will be taken up in churches Sept. 6-7.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
SEE PAGE 5.

## For eternal rest in the garden



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses The Garden of St. Matthew, a newly designed and developed Catholic section at Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Matthews Aug. 12. It is the only exclusively Catholic section located at an independently-run cemetery in the Charlotte area.

Bishop Jugis blesses  
new Catholic section  
of Matthews cemetery

Section is first of its  
kind in diocese

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

MATTHEWS — Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; and several priests from the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for the blessing of an exclusively Catholic section at an independently-owned cemetery in Matthews Aug. 12.

Located on the grounds of Forest Lawn East Cemetery, the section called The Garden of St. Matthew is the result of a collaborative effort between the cemetery and St. Matthew Church.

The first of its kind, The Garden of St. Matthew is unique

See GARDEN, page 6



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Students of Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte board a Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools bus outside of St. Patrick School in Charlotte Aug. 20, their first day of classes.

## That time of year again

Thousands of students return to Catholic  
schools across Diocese of Charlotte

Upgrades made to  
facilities, programs

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Across the Diocese of Charlotte, students are once again rising early to head out the door to school.

Thousands of students began classes at the 18 Catholic schools across the 46-county

diocese this month.

Because of the diocese's commitment to a continuous quality of education, many enhancements have been made at and to the schools in the diocese in preparation of the new school year.

A wireless Internet system is up and running at St. Patrick

See SCHOOL, page 7

## Building on faith

Five Greensboro  
churches build Habitat  
for Humanity house

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Parishioners from five Greensboro Catholic churches have joined forces to build a Habitat for Humanity house.

See HOUSE, page 4

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##

### Campus Catholicism

Ministry helps college students  
grow in faith

| PAGES 8-9

### Culture Watch

Book on 'female pope'; Web  
site for Catholic parishes

| PAGES 10-11

### United front

Pro-lifers take stand outside  
abortion clinic

| PAGE 13



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## POWER PRIEST



CNS PHOTO COURTESY FATHER CALLAHAN

Atonement Father Dan Callahan, associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc Church in Toronto, participates in the July 20 Ford Iron Man USA competition in Lake Placid, N.Y. Father Callahan, 57, is known as the "Iron Friar" for successfully completing twelve daylong triathlons since 1997.

## 'Iron Friar' who is triathlete evangelizes as he swims, bikes, runs

RYE, N.Y. (CNS) — Atonement Father Dan Callahan evangelizes underwater. And on a bike. And while he's running. All on the same day.

And he helps recovering alcoholics and substance abusers at the same time.

Father Callahan, 57, is known as the "Iron Friar" for successfully completing 12 daylong triathlons since 1997. Most recently, he finished the Ford Iron Man USA competition July 20 at Lake Placid in 14 hours and 43 minutes.

Three inches of rain fell while he swam 2.4 miles in Mirror Lake, biked 112 miles through the Adirondack Mountains and ran a 26.4-mile road marathon.

Father Callahan, associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc Church in Toronto, said his goal in competing is "always to finish, enjoy the pizza, be healthy and go to work the next day."

Father Callahan uses the annual race at Lake Placid as an opportunity to evangelize and to raise funds for St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center in Saranac Lake, where he once served as a pastoral counselor and spiritual director.

St. Joseph's is a facility run by his order, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. It provides residential alcoholism and substance abuse services to men and women.

"I talk to the residents two days before the race," said Father Callahan. "I use the race as a foil to talk about recovery. I know what a struggle they have in life, and I know what good people they are."

"I tell them that it's a grueling race

for me, but it's nothing compared to the race they're in for their life. I get choked up every year. It's very inspirational," he said.

He also invites his friends and supporters of St. Joseph's to sponsor his race. He has raised more than \$100,000 for St. Joseph's through the Iron Man competitions.

Father Callahan said that he is always invited to offer the opening prayer at the dinner on the Friday night before the Sunday race. At the dinner, "there are 2,400 racers there and their families and supporters. I always put in a plug for Mass," he said.

He also is the main celebrant and homilist at the evening Mass at St. Agnes Church the Saturday before the race. It is the most crowded Mass of the year.

"At the end of Mass, the athletes are invited to the sanctuary for a blessing and I take my place with them. The congregation prays over us. Seeing the tears in the eyes of the athletes is a moving experience," he said.

Racers and onlookers invariably approach Father Callahan during the actual competition.

"People thank me for the homily. Some say that a point I made helped them through a tough spot on the course. It's a real evangelizing opportunity. Some (participants) don't have a spirituality beyond running," he said.

Father Callahan said, "For each person, it's a major accomplishment to become an Iron Man. It's a marvelous analogy for life."

## Catholics encouraged to pray novena in weeks leading up to election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace before the November election.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has made available for download from the Internet a podcast of a "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" at [www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts). It will be available until the Nov. 4 election.

The special novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions," said Joan Rosenhauer, associate director of the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

The bishops adopted the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility" in November 2007.

The "Novena for Faithful Citizenship" runs for nine days and can be used

consecutively, one day each week, for nine days prior to the election, or "in any way that works best for a community or individual," said Rosenhauer.

"Novena" comes from the Latin word "novem," meaning nine, and the prayer form first appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain. A novena is usually held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.

The USCCB Web site suggests ways Catholics can pray the "Novena for Faithful Citizenship."

Helen Osman, USCCB communications secretary, expressed hope the novena could help "Catholics enter into prayerful reflection as they prepare to vote."

Osman said the USCCB wants to support Catholics as they weigh pre-election issues and that "providing a prayer resource on the Web can help us focus on our common values and identity as Catholics."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today" will be held Aug. 26 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., 1-3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The two-hour faith formation and enrichment sessions are sponsored by "Why Catholic?" and presented by RENEW International. For more information, contact Michael Coyle at (704) 598-3049.

CHARLOTTE — "Social Teachings and Our Public Policies" will be presented by Social Service Sister Simone Campbell, national director of NETWORK, Sept. 6, 7 p.m. in the New Life Center Banquet Room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. This event is free and open to the public. Come enjoy a light meal and hear Sister Campbell discuss the complex issues that will affect the November election. Voter registration will be conducted at all Sept. 6 and 7 Masses. For more information, contact Terri Jarina at (704) 243-4431 or [tjarina@windstream.net](mailto:tjarina@windstream.net).

CHARLOTTE — All adults are invited to attend the *Christian Coffeehouse* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Join us for energizing spiritual messages with live Christian

contemporary music, snacks and drinks, all served in a candlelit atmosphere, Sept. 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the parish center gym. There is no charge to attend this event. To reserve a table for 6 or more, call Kathy at (704) 400-2213 by Sept. 5.

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* recollection for men will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 5, 7-9 p.m. There will be opportunity for confession 6:30-7 p.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church that helps people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Joe Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or e-mail [joremy.ignacio@gmail.com](mailto:joremy.ignacio@gmail.com).

CHARLOTTE — An *Opus Dei* recollection for women will be held at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Sept. 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Meditations will begin at 10 a.m. followed by Mass at 12 p.m. Confessions will be heard at 9-10 a.m., 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-1 p.m. Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church that helps people find God in their everyday lives. For more information, contact Remy Ignacio at (704) 752-7155 or e-mail [joremy.ignacio@gmail.com](mailto:joremy.ignacio@gmail.com).

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment will take place at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead St., Monday evenings during September. Join us on Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m. We will explore important modern issues in today's society. RSVP to [jennifer.eues@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.eues@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start a six-week program on St.

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope urges church to help overcome racism in modern society

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned that racism is alive in modern society, and he urged the church to help overcome all forms of racial intolerance.

He said racism today is often tied to economic and social problems. Although such problems may be real, they can never justify racial discrimination, he said Aug. 17.

While the pontiff did not mention specific countries, his words had an immediate echo in Italy, where a series of government actions against illegal immigrants have prompted strong debate inside and outside the church.

The pope, addressing pilgrims at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome, began his remarks by quoting the prophet Isaiah about the "foreigners" who will be included in the Lord's universal house of prayer.

Likewise, the pope said, the church

today is made up of people of every race and culture, and part of its mission is to help forge bonds of communion between races.

That task includes "helping civil society to overcome any possible temptation to racism, intolerance and exclusion," he said. "One of humanity's great achievements is, in fact, overcoming racism."

The pope said various countries had "new, worrisome signs of racism, often tied to social and economic problems," but such problems could "never justify racial contempt and discrimination."

The pope asked for prayers so that mutual acceptance may grow in the world.

In Italy, some Catholics have criticized the government's new crackdown on illegal immigration and other security measures, saying they are racially discriminatory.

## Pope approves beatification of St. Therese's parents in Lisieux

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has approved the beatification of Louis and Marie Zélie Guérin Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux.

The couple will be beatified Oct. 19, World Mission Sunday, during a Mass in the Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux, France, the Vatican announced Aug. 19.

St. Therese and St. Francis Xavier are the patron saints of the missions. The Vatican did not say who would preside at the Martins' beatification Mass.

With beatification, the diocese where the candidate lived or the religious order to which the person belonged is authorized to hold public commemorations on the person's feast day. With the declaration of sainthood, public liturgical celebrations are allowed around the world.

The Martins were declared venerable, one of the first steps in the sainthood process, in 1994. But the miracle needed for their beatification was not approved

by the Vatican until early July.

Louis lived 1823-1894 and his wife lived 1831-1877. They had nine children, five of whom joined religious orders.

Also Aug. 19, the Vatican announced four other beatification ceremonies:

— Sister Vincenza Maria Poloni, founder of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy in Italy, will be beatified Sept. 21 in Verona, Italy.

— Father Michael Sopocko, founder of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus and spiritual director of St. Faustina Kowalska, will be beatified Sept. 28 at the Church of Divine Mercy in Białystok, Poland.

— Father Francesco Pianzola, founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Queen of Peace, will be beatified Oct. 4 in Vigevano, Italy.

— Father Francesco Giovanni Bonifacio, martyred in 1946 by Yugoslav communists, will be beatified Oct. 4 in Trieste, Italy.

Paul beginning Sept. 2. Topics will include St. Paul's teachings on faith and works, marriage and chastity, the church and sacraments, the Jews and the rapture. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. The group will meet Thursday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. For more information, contact Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

HIGH POINT — Free Spanish classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 18. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Larry at HLKwan@lexcominc.net.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — "Christ's Presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today" will be held Aug. 26 at St. Therese of Lisieux Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., 7-9 p.m. This two-hour faith formation and enrichment session is sponsored by "Why Catholic?" and presented by RENEW International. For more information, contact Michael Coyle at (704) 598-3049.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — "Spreading the Good News: How Catholics Share Our Faith" evangelization training for lay leaders and volunteers will take place at St. Mary Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St. Aug. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The workshop will present the basics of Catholic evangelization and help participants begin to develop an action plan for their parish, group or organization. For more information and registration, call Frank Villaronga at (704) 370-3274 or e-mail favillaronga@charlottediocese.org.

BRYSON CITY — "Stewardship: A Way of Life" will be presented by Barbara Gaddy, associate director of the Development Office of the Diocese of Charlotte, Sept. 10 at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., following the 4 p.m. Mass and a covered dish supper. The presentation will include background on stewardship from Scripture and traditions in the church; ways of promoting stewardship activities in the parish; and the fruits of a parish stewardship effort. For more information, e-mail maryherr@dnet.net or call (828) 497-9498.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will conduct an ongoing series called "Catholics Returning Home" on six consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 9. These sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics who are interested in returning to the church. There will be informal sharing and an update on the Catholic faith. For more details, call Sean or Kelly Hines at (336) 940-6053 or e-mail hinesnc@adelphia.net.

WINSTON-SALEM — In an effort to give practical help to married and engaged couples to live out the teaching of the Church, a course on *natural family planning* will begin Sept. 21, at 1:30 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Come learn how to build your marriage relationship with better communication skills and enhanced intimacy by sharing the responsibility for birth regulation. For more information, contact Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Grief in Georgia



CNS PHOTO BY DENIS SINIAKOV, REUTERS

A South Ossetian woman distributes food aid Aug. 15 at a Greek Orthodox Church in Ts'khinvali, the capital of the Georgian province of South Ossetia. A Georgian attack on the breakaway province of South Ossetia Aug. 7 followed by a Russian invasion of Georgia left an unknown number of dead, including civilians, and prompted an estimated 60,000 people to flee their homes. Pope Benedict XVI urged the international community to establish humanitarian corridors in Georgia so that the dead could be buried, the wounded receive medical help and refugees return home.

### PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following pastoral appointments, effective Aug. 1:

- **Redemptorist Father J. Joseph Dionne**, as pastor, St. James the Greater Church, Concord
- **Jesuit Father Donald Ward**, as parochial vicar, St. Therese of Lisieux Church, Mooresville
- **Conventual Franciscan Father Mario Giuliano**, as parochial vicar, Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

### Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 23 (10 a.m.)  
Blessing of new preschool  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

Aug. 24 (9 a.m.)  
Pastor installation of Father Tien H. Duong  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin

Aug. 25-27  
Bishops, priests annual provincial assembly  
Archdiocese of Atlanta

Sept. 5 (3 p.m.)  
40th anniversary Mass for Bishop F. Joseph Gossman  
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Cary

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# Five Greensboro churches build Habitat for Humanity house

HOUSE, from page 1

Volunteers took a break from their hammering Aug. 15 when Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, came out to bless the site, the workers and the undertaking.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for inner-parish activity that will benefit our community," said Msgr. Marcaccio in an interview.

Fundraising for the project began in January, when Msgr. Marcaccio signed the intent form with Habitat for Humanity confirming the parishes' commitment to actively participate in the building of a house in Greensboro.

"When Msgr. Marcaccio expressed interest in a Habitat for Humanity project, it was met with immediate enthusiasm from all of the parishes," said Joe Bauer, co-chair for the build and parishioner of St. Pius X Church.

In addition to the five churches — St. Pius X Church, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Our Lady of Grace Church, St. Benedict Church and St. Mary Church — also involved with the build are students from Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville and Catholic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus.

"It is a great thing to do together," said Msgr. Marcaccio of the joint effort, "People have been very generous."

Each parish was assigned a financial goal.

It cost \$60,000 in supplies to build a Habitat for Humanity house, but the overall goal was to raise \$65,000.

The extra money was sent to a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Honduras, where houses can be built for just under \$5,000.

This will be the first home built in Greensboro by the Catholic churches since 1997.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to build bridges within the community, particularly with people of different faith traditions," Bauer said.

The recipient of the home is a Muslim family with two young daughters.

"We are very happy to embrace people of other traditions and honor the diversity in our community," said Bauer.

At this point, construction is



PHOTOS BY KATIE MOORE

Above: Parishioners from Greensboro Catholic churches raise a wall during construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Greensboro Aug. 15. Below: Joe Bauer, co-chair for the building of the Habitat house in Greensboro and parishioner of St. Pius X Church, saws the edge of a wall during construction of the house Aug. 15. Parishioners from all five Greensboro Catholic churches have worked together to raise funds for the project and are participating in the construction of the home.

projected to take 17 weeks. The goal is to have the family in the home before Christmas.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro was formed in 1987 and is the 16th largest affiliate nationwide. Habitat for Humanity partners with sponsors and people in need around the globe to build decent, affordable homes and help eliminate poverty housing.

With the construction of the house underway, Msgr. Marcaccio said he hoped the effort has "helped raise awareness for the need of housing and the ministry of Habitat for Humanity."

"This is a way of introducing the ministry to our parishes so that it can be continued," he said.

Bauer said he also hopes this will be the first of many collaborative efforts between Habitat for Humanity and the Catholic parishes of Greensboro.

"The mission is to build bridges and to break down walls of prejudice," he said. "As people of faith, that is what we are called to do."

#### WANT MORE PICS?

More construction photos are available online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



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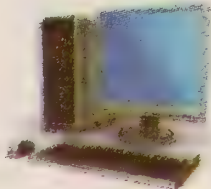
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# PRIESTS' RETIREMENT



PHOTO BY BARBARA GADDY

Father Edward Sheridan, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrates Mass in a chapel on his property in Hickory June 24. Also pictured are Carl Larson and Rita Borst. Father Ed Sheridan often invites friends and former parishioners to join him for daily Mass.

## 'Still Sowing the Seeds of Faith'

*Upcoming collection helps both retired and active priests in diocese*

For retired priest Father Edward Sheridan, the theme of this year's diocesan Priests' Retirement & Benefits Collection — "Still Sowing the Seeds of Faith" — has a special meaning.

It might refer to the way he stewards God's beautiful works of creation that surround him at his retirement home, "The Hermitage," near the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Or it may reflect the many ways he continues to share God's word with the individuals and small groups who still come to him for spiritual direction, prayer and reflection.

Either way, Father Ed is "still sowing the seeds of faith" in his retirement.

Nearly every window of Father Ed's humble home boasts a view of nature that inspires his quiet prayer time. The tiny chapel on the grounds provides another place for quiet prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Father Ed often invites friends and former parishioners to join him for daily Mass. On other occasions, his little Marian grotto is a space for praying the rosary and reflecting.

Father Ed's words of faith, hope and encouragement are yet more ways he continues to sow the seeds of faith.

This past spring, some of the young families from St. Aloysius Church spent the day on his 30-acre hermitage.

Karen Taylor and Andrea Haas, whose children participated in the family day of reflection, were happy to see their children's enthusiasm for the outdoor Mass.

Another time, a few families brought tents and camped out in the meadow on top of a hill overlooking the conference center. Father Ed provided prayer and stories that were cherished by all.

Father Ed is part of a brotherhood of 25 retired diocesan priests who are "still sowing the seeds of faith" in various ways throughout the diocese and beyond.

Some are involved in ministry to the sick; others visit the imprisoned; and still others help in parishes when the pastors are away. All of these men pray daily for the people of this diocese. Our retired priests continue to live as good stewards of their God-given gifts and talents.

Our generosity to the annual collection for the priests' retirement and

### Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY  
GUEST COLUMNIST



benefits plans is one way we can express our gratitude for the many ways these retired priests continue to bless us. Of the collection, \$444,000 is allocated to the retired diocesan priests' health plan.

This collection assures also that those priests who are currently in active ministry will have funds available when they retire — \$560,500 will be directed to pension contributions for the diocesan priests' retirement plan.

A total contribution of \$414,500 also will be made to the retirement plans of the 11 religious orders serving within our diocese.

Each parish is assessed 3.5 percent of its annual offertory collection to raise the funds needed to support these priests' retirement and benefits plans. For most of our parishes, that represents just a little less than two times their regular Sunday offertory. So if every parishioner would make a contribution that is about twice the amount he or she puts in the regular weekend collection, our parishes would be able to pay the assessment.

Some parishioners' budgets might require them to stretch that gift out over a month or more. Each parish has additional envelopes for that purpose. Check with your parish office.

So the next time one of our retired priests comes to assist in your parish, visits you or a loved one in the hospital, invites you to participate in a morning of prayer, or is seen sharing God's Word with someone in a local jail or prison, just remember — our priests never stop sowing the seeds of faith.

Please be generous to this second collection being held in your parish the weekend after Labor Day, Sept. 6-7.

*Barbara Gaddy is associate director of the diocesan Development Office.*

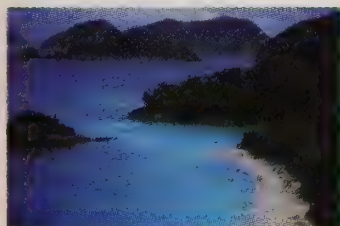


PHOTO BY BARBARA GADDY

Father Edward Sheridan sits in the Marian grotto on his property in Hickory June 24 with (from left) Mary Ann Larson, Bill Borst and Carl Laron. Father Sheridan often invites friends and former parishioners to join him for daily Mass in his chapel or to use the grotto for prayer and reflection.

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# Bishop Jugis blesses new Catholic section of cemetery

GARDEN, from page 1

in that it is the only exclusively Catholic section located at an independently-owned cemetery in the Charlotte area.

"This has been a long effort to bring this to fruition," said Msgr. McSweeney.

In 2006, the Diocese of Charlotte implemented a moratorium on constructing and expanding columbaria and conducted a study on the use of columbaria and cemeteries.

"The church prefers the burial of the body of the deceased over the cremation of the body," wrote Bishop Jugis in a Sept. 8, 2006 column in The Catholic News & Herald.

In response to the moratorium, Msgr. McSweeney began a feasibility study last year to look into the possibility of opening a cemetery on St. Matthew Church property.

"We are routinely asked whether or not there is a Catholic cemetery in Charlotte," said Antoinette Usher, director of facilities at St. Matthew Church.

Due to land availability, zoning and environmental issues, the study found that it would not be feasible to build a cemetery on the church property.

At the time, Forest Lawn East Cemetery was looking into the possibility of opening a Catholic section due to

increasing demands for Catholic burials.

"It didn't just happen overnight," Msgr. McSweeney explained. "There was a lot of thought and prayer" that went into the planning.

"The Garden of St. Matthew is a pastorally-sensitive approach, offering equal access at one location to all our Catholic parishioners who desire a resting place for either the body or for cremated remains," said Bishop Jugis.

"It fulfills the requirements of our new policy on cemeteries adopted in 2007, which requires that a resting place for the bodies of the deceased and a resting place for cremated remains be available all at one location," said the bishop.

"What is wonderful for us is that it takes the management responsibility off of the parish and puts it into the hands of professionals," said Usher.

Forest Lawn East was designed and developed in 1971. The cemetery consists of 52 acres of developed property with 128 acres available for future expansion.

The Garden of St. Matthew has room for 256 burial spaces, which will be divided into an upright monument section and a flat bronze and granite section.

In the garden will be a 7-foot granite statue of St. Matthew donated by Msgr. McSweeney in honor of his late sister. At a luncheon following the Aug. 12 blessing, representatives from the cemetery and Heritage Funeral and Cremation Services presented the pastors with information to take back to their parishioners.

Bishop Jugis was presented with several certificates for burial spaces for indigent or low income parishioners.

More certificates may be provided on an as-needed basis.

Father Tan Van Le, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte, said he is excited about the opportunity for his parishioners to be buried with other Catholics from the diocese.

"They want to be buried with Catholics," he said. "We hope to share with the whole diocese."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis delivers a brief reflection on the Scripture reading during the blessing of the cross and the Catholic section at Forest Lawn East Cemetery in Matthews Aug. 12. Also pictured (from left) Msgr. John McSweeney, Deacon James Hamlik, seminarian Joshua Bradford, Father Patrick Cahill and Father Luis Osorio.

## BURIAL OR CREMATION?

The Order of Christian Funerals — the Vatican-approved rite used for celebrating Catholic funerals — indicates three reasons for the preference of burial of the body of the deceased over the cremation of the body:

- Jesus himself willed to be buried;
- the body at the funeral rite expresses in a natural way the manner people had been accustomed to relate to the person while he or she was living, namely through a human body;
- the body at the funeral rite expresses Jesus' teaching regarding the supernatural dignity and destiny of the human body.

The Order of Christian Funerals presents cremation as an exception to burial and allows Catholics to be cremated "when extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice."

In March 2007, the Diocese of Charlotte issued its new policy on cemeteries and columbaria, which states parishes may offer at one location a resting place for both the bodies and the cremated remains of the deceased.

The policy gives the diocese the option to create Catholic sections in local cemeteries and to receive or purchase land for the establishment of a Catholic cemetery.

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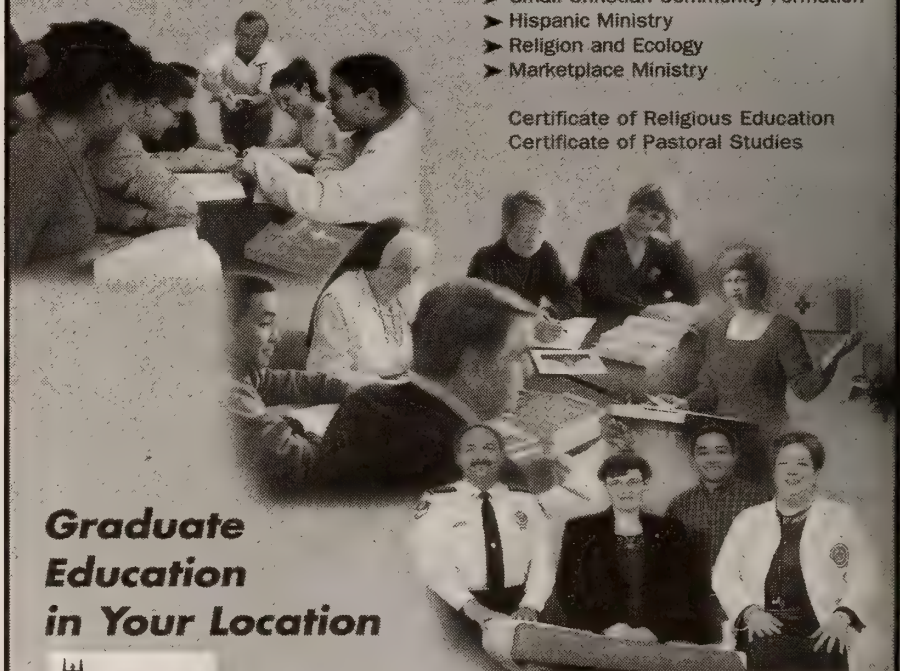
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**Tuesday, September 16 — Holy Family, Clemmons — 9:30am-2:45pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Sept. 4th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Kelleher, retired, currently Chaplain at Bishop McGuinness High School**

**Tuesday, Sept. 30 — Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte — 10am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Sept. 18th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Bishop Emeritus William Curlin, retired**

**Wednesday, October 15 — St. Barnabas, Arden — 10am-3 pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Oct. 2nd**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte**

**Tuesday, Oct. 28 — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory — 10am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, October 14th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. John McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Church**

**Thursday, November 13 — St. James, Hamlet — 10:30am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 4th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, retired, Belmont Abbey**



**Cost: \$13 includes lunch.** Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.**

**For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.**



Teacher Kay Roberts sits with new kindergarten students at St. Ann School in Charlotte Aug. 20, the first day of classes.

## Students return to school across Diocese of Charlotte

SCHOOL, from page 1

School in Charlotte, and students are returning to new laptop computers at Immaculata School in Hendersonville and Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School teachers received summer training on the laptops, and among the applications learned was how to create podcasts, which offer new instructional and learning opportunities.

The Learning/Language Stimulation program is blossoming at St. Ann School in Charlotte. Now in its second year, the program provides one-on-one instruction for students in grades two through five who have difficulty learning.

Kindergarten-through-fifth-grade students now will be learning Chinese language, culture and writing at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem. And new programs are in place at Immaculata School — a new reading series for students and upgraded social studies for middle school classes. Also, the school's

gymnasium has been refurbished with a new roof and floor.

As enrollment rises in Catholic schools across the diocese, offering a curriculum with a faith component is the most important aspect, according to Principal Debbie Mixer at St. Patrick School.

"We are able to help the students grow in their faith," she said.

And watch the students grow — literally.

"Watching the kindergarten students walk in so unsure on the first day and then seeing them graduate in the spring — the transition and transformation is enormous," said Mixer.

"Our schools are Catholic first," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"This year our focus in everything is leading our students to a faith-filled life, exemplified in the celebration of Mass and the holy Eucharist," she said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on diocesan Catholic schools, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicschools.html).

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## Fostering faith at college

### Guest Column

MARY WRIGHT  
GUEST COLUMNIST



We are so blessed in this diocese to have such dedicated, caring and committed campus ministers.

As we begin another school year, I am mindful that I am starting my 10th year in campus ministry. I am very blessed to be director of diocesan campus ministry and a campus minister at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

No matter how long one is in campus ministry, the reality is that we need to continue the faith formation that parents, parishes and friends have begun at least 18 years prior to a student going to college.

What an awesome responsibility we have to continue ministering and journeying with Catholic college students.

As many of you know, the campus ministers do an extraordinary job implementing the U.S. bishop's pastoral letter "Empowered by the Spirit."

Campus ministers focus and provide opportunities for college students to form faith communities, appropriate the faith, form Christian conscience, educate for peace and justice, facilitate personal development and develop leaders and disciples for the future.

As you read the following article, you will note that our campus ministers manifest those aspects in many different ways.

On a diocesan level, we are providing a leadership training weekend in September for all student leaders involved in campus ministry.

All students are invited to a vocation day in November and a service weekend in February.

Another initiative we are beginning this year is an e-mail address — [off2college@charlottediocese.org](mailto:off2college@charlottediocese.org) — for students interested in receiving more information about or becoming involved with campus ministry.

The respective campus minister will be notified so an invitation can be extended to the student.

We are very grateful for your support of the Diocesan Support Appeal, which helps fund campus ministry. In addition to that funding, each campus is assigned a development goal they must attain.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry for the future leaders of our church. Please know this ministry with college students is not possible without your support.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful and financial support of Catholic campus ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

*Mary Wright is the director for campus and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## Diocesan Catholic Campus Ministry

Director: Mary Wright  
(704-370-3212, [mmwright@charlottediocese.org](mailto:mmwright@charlottediocese.org))

**Appalachian State University**  
Campus Minister: Erin Leonard  
(828-264-7087, [erin4209@yahoo.com](mailto:erin4209@yahoo.com))

**Bennett College; NC A&T State University**

Campus Minister: Alberta Hairston (336-272-5868, [theahouse@bellsouth.net](mailto:theahouse@bellsouth.net))

**Davidson College**

Campus Minister: Karen Soos  
(704-894-2423, [kasoos@dauidson.edu](mailto:kasoos@dauidson.edu))

**Wake Forest University; North Carolina School of the Arts; Salem College**

Campus Minister: Father Jude DeAngelo (336-758-5018, [deangejt@wfu.edu](mailto:deangejt@wfu.edu)); Campus Minister: Julie Ostergaard (336-758-4214, [ostergjm@wfu.edu](mailto:ostergjm@wfu.edu))

**Western Carolina University**

Campus Minister: Matthew Newsome (828-293-9374, [ccm@wcucatholic.org](mailto:ccm@wcucatholic.org))

**UNC-Asheville; Brevard College; Mars Hill College**

Campus Minister: Gloria Schweizer (828-250-3841, [uncacatholic@aol.com](mailto:uncacatholic@aol.com))

**UNC-Charlotte**

Campus Minister: Mary Wright (704-370-3212, [mmwright@uncc.edu](mailto:mmwright@uncc.edu)); Campus Minister: Peg Ruble (704-717-7104, [rkrmcra@aol.com](mailto:rkrmcra@aol.com))

**UNC Greensboro; Greensboro College; Guilford College**

Campus Minister: Penny DeLoca (336-334-4264, [ptdeloca@uncg.edu](mailto:ptdeloca@uncg.edu))

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about diocesan Catholic campus ministry, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/campus\\_youngadult.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/campus_youngadult.html).

# Catholicism on campus

*Campus ministry helps Catholic college students grow in their faith while hitting the books*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — As Catholic students return to school this month, those attending many of the colleges and universities within the Diocese of Charlotte will have an outlet for their faith on campus.

Since the founding of campus ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972, the program has grown to encompass 15 public and private colleges and universities within western North Carolina.

Through Catholic campus ministry, students in the diocese are encouraged to grow in their faith and share their God given gifts through opportunities of learning, worship and service.

In 1985, the U.S. bishops issued a pastoral letter on campus ministry. It stated that, "Campus ministry is the embodiment of the church on campus."

According to that pastoral letter, the goal of campus ministry is to "form a Catholic Christian community through worship, reflection on the faith, peer ministry, and outreach to the university at large."

"Through the efforts of this ministry, Catholic students are formed in the faith, 'empowered by the Spirit' to realize the kingdom of God on campus and become prepared to contribute to the church following their college years."

### Learning

One of the goals of campus ministry is to help Catholic college students expand their knowledge of church teachings and to grow in the faith.

"With God, the more we learn about him, the more we love him," said Matthew Newsome, campus minister at Western Carolina University, in Cullowhee.

Newsome plans to offer catechetical bi-monthly classes in conjunction with Wednesday night dinners at the campus ministry center at Western Carolina University. The sessions will cover topics on faith sharing and evangelization.

"There must be a catechetical element," he said. "They (the students) really want to have this material presented to them."

Several campuses in the diocese offer small group faith sharing through Campus RENEW.

Campus RENEW, the college program from RENEW International, is a two-and-a-half year process that facilitates renewal and transformation on college campuses through small faith-sharing groups. It fosters spirituality, builds community and a commitment to service.

At the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Guilford College and Greensboro College, students meet weekly for faith sharing and RENEW training workshops.

At North Carolina A&T State University and Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, a Campus RENEW lectionary-based Scripture study is offered bi-weekly.

At Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, students meet weekly for "Why Catholic?" discussion groups. Another program facilitated by RENEW International, "Why Catholic?" offers

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# BACK TO SCHOOL

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### Worship

Another unique aspect of Catholic campus ministry is the mutually beneficial relationship that often forms between the students and the local parish communities.

During the school year, students from Appalachian State University provide music at weekend Masses at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone.

"This interaction really helps students feel like members of the St. Elizabeth's community and develop a home away from home," said Erin Leonard, campus minister at Appalachian State University.

"Going to college is a time of great transition. It is really important for students to stay connected to their faith during this time," said Leonard. "In addition to all we do as a group on campus, it is important for us to stay an active part of the larger church."

Students from A&T State University and Bennett College for Women attend Sunday and holy day liturgies at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, celebrates Mass at Thea House, the campus ministry center, once a month.

Students from UNC-Charlotte help coordinate games and activities at the parish picnic for St. Thomas Aquinas Church each fall. Members of the "Young at Heart" group at the parish prepare a meal for the students once a month.

At Western Carolina University, Father Walter Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva, hears confessions and celebrates Mass on campus once a week.

Students from UNC-Greensboro, Guilford College and Greensboro College attend Mass together at Our Lady of Grace Church.

### Service

"Through campus ministry, college students answer the call from the U.S. bishops to put Catholic social teaching into action," said Gloria Schweizer, campus minister at the UNC-Ashville, Brevard College and Mars Hill College.

Students give of their time and talent through acts of service on their campuses, in their communities and beyond.

Students from Wake Forest University were recognized recently for their work with the Catholic Hurricane Relief Agency in Louisiana. Catholic students from Wake Forest have been to the Gulf Coast six times since it was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They've gutted houses, cleaned schools, removed old insulation, hung sheetrock and played with neighborhood children.

For the past 10 years, Catholic students from Davidson College in Davidson have traveled to Nicaragua with an ecumenical group sponsored by the College Chaplain's Office and Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Karen Soos, the Catholic campus minister at Davidson, is one of the trip's co-leaders.

"What we try to do with the students on the Journey to Nicaragua team is have them learn about a particular situation, listen to people's stories, share their lives and then out of that, after they come back home, choose a life and a lifestyle that integrates service, justice and continual learning," said Soos.

Each February, students from all the campuses in the diocese participate in the "Give Your Heart Away" retreat, a weekend of faith, justice and service projects at various locations.

"I know a lot of people my age are feeling unfulfilled," said Katie Goodman, a UNC-Asheville student who attended the "Give Your Heart Away" retreat in February 2008. "They seem to be searching for something deeper, which makes me wonder if something is missing. I am wondering, after the experience of this weekend, if maybe it is the direction in which we have been giving our hearts away."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Catholic students from Western Carolina University help build wheelchair ramps for elderly residents of Jackson County during a service project in fall 2005. Below: Catholic students from North Carolina A&T State University and Bennett College for Women sit in front of Thea House in Greensboro. Thea House is a campus ministry center where black Catholic students can meet other Catholics, continue their faith formation and celebrate their culture's unique gifts to the Catholic Church.



Catholic campus ministry is one of the ministries partly funded by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.



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**Sunday, July 20 – Friday, July 25**

**Old Testament: (Sunday night – Thursday night)**

**Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM**

Topic: "The Psalms: Model and Guide To Prayer"

**New Testament: (Monday morning – Friday morning)**

**Margaret Nutting Ralph**

Topic: "And God Said What?"

For further information, contact The Oratory.



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Entertaining historical look at 'female pope' has scholarly gaps

(CNS) — Eleanor Herman is not afraid to take on seemingly controversial topics and unusual aspects of history. She has written "Sex With Kings" and "Sex With the Queen." In her latest effort, "Mistress of the Vatican," she chronicles the story of Olimpia Maidalchini, whose brother-in-law was Pope Innocent X.

Historians agree that Maidalchini had considerable influence with the pope and his papacy, which lasted 1644-1655.

Herman has an engaging style and creates an interesting read about Maidalchini, Rome and the state of the church at that time.

However, there are many implications in the book that make a reader wonder.

For example, the introduction notes, "The church, too, looked on females as defective creatures. ... The church fathers, who in the second through fifth centuries grappled with Scripture to hammer out Catholic theology, were notorious misogynists."

Yet, she writes in Chapter 11 about the historical relationship of the Catholic Church and women. She states that for three centuries "women played a major role — teaching, disciplining and managing material resources. According to tombstones found in France, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Yugoslavia, some of these women were priests."

She also writes about the tradition of women priests through the fifth century.

Herman's book relies heavily on the writings of Gualdus Leti when it comes to facts about Maidalchini. And church historians do not argue about the fact that she had considerable influence on the pope and his decision-making. The Catholic Encyclopedia even notes that.

The book is vivid but often filled

with "might haves," "could haves" and "imagines." The book concludes with Maidalchini's death and notes "we can imagine her soul rising through the gold-embroidered velvet hangings of her four-poster bed."

Herman also refers to St. Thomas Aquinas as arguing his theology in the 12th century. He lived from 1225 to 1274, which of course makes him a 13th-century theologian. It is a small error but does make one wonder about other details.

The author also writes that the "Latin word for woman — 'femina' — was said to have come from 'fe' for faith and 'minus' for less since women were thought too weak to hold and preserve the faith." A quick check of Merriam Webster shows a different etymology.

She also writes about the decline of the town of Viterbo, north of Rome and site of the papal residence in the late 13th century, and notes "the papal court moved to the peace and quiet of Avignon, in southern France."

It seems simplistic to describe it as a move to a quieter place.

Herman's book is revealing, entertaining and interesting. However, it is not a great scholarly work and it seems to have an agenda.

Herman concludes her book: "But Olimpia's story, completely true, has been completely forgotten. New church scandals fill the newspapers. New saints inspire the faithful."

"And in an age when other Christian churches have permitted female priests, the Catholic Church adamantly refuses to consider doing so, citing tradition. The church does not concede that a woman has already run the Vatican itself, and her name was Olimpia Maidalchini."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG 31, 2008

Aug. 31, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 20:7-9  
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9
- 2) Romans 12:1-2  
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

### Taking up the cross often involves struggle, sacrifice

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Having begun a doctoral program relatively late in life, I've discovered a "love-hate relationship" with higher education. That's a term often used to describe strong but ambivalent feelings about a person or situation, and it's quite appropriate to express the simultaneous pleasure and pain of reading hundreds of pages of assigned texts, researching papers and taking exams.

Why would anyone with a family and a full-time job voluntarily put themselves through the rigors (and sleep deprivation!) of a degree program? It defies logic and flies in the face of common sense.

But when I consider the alternative, I always conclude that I can't not do it. While the situation is paradoxical, it's precisely in the paradox that I find my personal mission and the drive to push forward when the day-to-day exertions of graduate school

don't always make sense.

Jeremiah's situation in today's first reading is a classic paradox: He's in a "love-hate relationship" with his call to give prophetic utterance to God's message. Although he is subjected to constant ridicule and contemplates not speaking God's name any longer, he finds that he cannot hold inside the "fire burning in my heart" and "imprisoned in my bones." While conventional human wisdom would advise him to stifle the prophetic impulse, God's calling is too powerful to renounce.

The exchange between Jesus and Peter in today's Gospel reveals the ultimate paradox, however. What can be more nonsensical than the Son of Man surrendering himself to torture and certain death?

But Jesus is very clear that the same paradox that compels him to embrace the cross is at the heart of discipleship: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Conventional wisdom would advise one to do whatever is necessary for self-preservation. Jesus' call doesn't make sense—even to his closest followers—and it's absolutely ridiculous to nonbelievers. But therein lies its saving power.

**Question:**

Where is God calling you to surrender your own personal ideas, plans or lifestyle in a way that doesn't make sense?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 24-30

Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20; Monday (St. Louis of France, St. Joseph Calasanz), 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12, Matthew 23:13-22; Tuesday, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17, Matthew 23:23-26; Wednesday (St. Monica), 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18, Matthew 23:27-32; Thursday (St. Augustine), 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Matthew 24:42-51; Friday (Martyrdom of John the Baptist), 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, Mark 6:17-29; Saturday, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 25:14-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 31-SEPT. 6

Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27; Monday, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Luke 4:16-30; Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Luke 4:31-37; Wednesday (St. Gregory the Great), 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Luke 4:38-44; Thursday, 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, Luke 5:1-11; Friday, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Luke 5:33-39; Saturday, 1 Corinthians 4:6-15, Luke 6:1-5.

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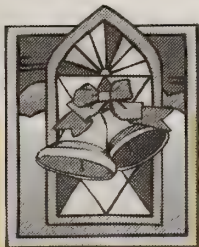
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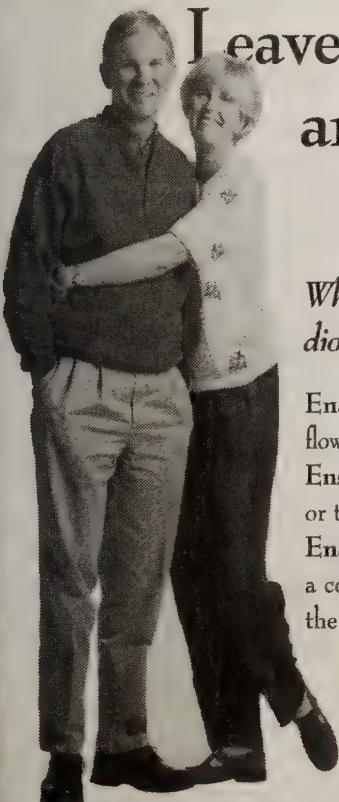
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**Man starts social networking site  
for Catholic parishes**

BY GEOFFREY A. BROOKE JR.  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Facebook and MySpace, the two most popular social networking sites on the Web, have practically become household names, but a Catholic Delaware man who has started a networking site for Catholic parishes hopes he can get some recognition of his own.

Shaun Gallagher said he took the "concept of social networking and centered it on a parish" to create [www.parishnetwork.org](http://www.parishnetwork.org).

Users go to the site to look for their parish and sign up through the parish, then they can communicate with other members of the parish through messages, forums and groups. Users also can connect with other Catholics in their diocese in the same way.

"It's a matter of aggregating information to add parishes" to the site, said Gallagher.

He works on the site by himself, with no paid or volunteer staff to help, gathering information for all the parishes in all the dioceses in the United States.

In a matter of weeks the site went from having 15 or 16 U.S. dioceses listed to 74 dioceses — and 9,635 parishes — listed as of June 23.

Even with such rapid growth, Gallagher said he expected it would take a few more months before all of the nation's 195 dioceses and their parishes are uploaded to the site.

Gallagher said he has been trying to "get the snowball rolling" by contacting various dioceses around the country and spreading information about the site via word of mouth through his friends.

Gallagher first got the idea when he moved to Delaware from New York in August 2007. He found that he was only able to introduce himself to a few people and that it was hard to make connections with other parishioners.

His site is "a foundational tool that helps people along their religious journeys," said Gallagher.

He believes it will have an impact on users' spirituality in a communal and personal sense.

"It gives someone an opening to introduce themselves," Gallagher added.

The site enables users to have a profile in which they can display their interests and hobbies.

"That alone can form Christian fellowship," he added.

He also thinks the site can influence people's prayer life; for example, he said he thinks those who feel they don't pray as often as they should might pray more if they see a prayer request someone has posted on the site.

Gallagher also thinks the site might have more of an impact on younger Catholics, making them feel more a part of a parish community.

"I know several people who have left the faith because they thought nobody would care, nobody would notice" if they left, he said. "If young people go to Mass and no one knows their name, it can be discouraging," he noted, adding that the site can help people know each other's name and give "people support to grow."

Gallagher works as a full time Web editor for The News Journal daily newspaper in Delaware.

His vision for the site it is to have something different from other social networking sites. He values simplicity and said he believes that philosophy came out of the time he spent as a DeSales Service Works volunteer in 2004.

Other Catholic social networking sites exist, but they cater to individuals, not dioceses and parishes as Gallagher's site does.

Officials planning World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia, recently launched a networking site called [www.xt3.com](http://www.xt3.com) for those who made the journey to attend the six-day event in July.

Other sites include [www.4marks.com](http://www.4marks.com), which focuses its target on young, single Catholics; [www.cathcommunity.org](http://www.cathcommunity.org), which focuses on individuals and on creating networks among various Catholic organizations; and [www.mycatholicvillage.com](http://www.mycatholicvillage.com), which aims to bring together individual Catholics from all across the globe.



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## Clothed for the journey



COURTESY PHOTO

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Haglof is pictured with members of the Flower of Carmel Community after a votive Mass and clothing ceremony for Ruth Ballard (to his right) at St. Barnabas Church in Arden July 12.

### Secular Discalced Carmelites clothe member in brown scapular

ARDEN — Ruth Ballard was clothed in a ceremonial brown scapular by the Flower of Carmel Community of the Order of Discalced Carmelites during a votive Mass at St. Barnabas Church in Arden July 12.

The clothing, the habit of the order, was given to Ballard, a convert to Catholicism and former Lutheran pastor, at the culmination of 18 months of study and discernment.

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Haglof celebrated the Mass and officiated the clothing ceremony. Elizabeth Pantas, the Flower of Carmel Community formation director, assisted in the clothing ceremony on behalf of the community.

Ballard took "Therese-Elizabeth of St. Luke, the Iconographer" as her name in the community. She now begins a five-year period of study, prayer and discernment that may lead her to lifelong promises of poverty, chastity and obedience to the community and the Superiors of the Teresian Carmel.

Ballard said her "love affair" with Carmelite spirituality began a decade ago when, as a Lutheran pastor, she read the spiritual autobiography of St. Therese, a Discalced Carmelite.

That "was the catalyst that began my journey into full communion with the Catholic Church," she said. "A deep longing developed within my heart to be a part of this rich (Discalced Carmelite)

tradition and to share within community a common calling to a life of holiness and contemplative prayer, following the example of our blessed mother."

"This longing became a reality when the Holy Spirit led me to the Flower of Carmel Community," she said.

Although retired, Ballard works as an iconographer, creating liturgical art that depicts biblical characters, events and saints. She also studies other types of artistic expression and explores ways to integrate Catholic doctrine and tradition with more contemporary art forms.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites is an order of lay people and diocesan priests who embrace a calling to strive for Christian perfection in the world according to the spirit and ideals of the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

Following in the way of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, Secular Carmelites endeavor to make their lives as grace-filled and as fruitful as possible for the church and the world. They are called upon to carry into the world the witness, message and example of the Carmelite Order.

#### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the order, visit [www.ocdswashprov.org](http://www.ocdswashprov.org). For more information on the Flower of Carmel Community, call Ella Reid at (828) 667-3903 or visit [www.flowerofcarmel.org](http://www.flowerofcarmel.org).

## Birthdays in a bag



COURTESY PHOTO

Shannon Martini, 11, a parishioner of St. James the Greater Church in Concord, sits amid the 25 "birthday bags" she made for children at the Carolina's Children's Center, an orphanage in Concord. Each bag contains a "birthday party," complete with cake mix, candles, balloons, streamers, gifts and cards for either a boy or girl of different age groups. Shannon collected donations from friends and family and delivered the bags June 10.

"I really didn't do anything. It was all the great people who contributed that really made the difference," said Shannon in an e-mail. "All I did was come up with the idea and be the person to put it together."

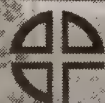
She hopes other churches and organizations will follow suit and make and deliver birthday bags to the orphanage throughout the year.

"It goes to show that everyone can make a difference in a big way because all the little things and caring that one person does can keep adding up to be something real big," she said.

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RESPECT LIFE



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Paul Simoneau (center) director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn. is pictured praying with other pro-life supporters outside an abortion clinic in Charlotte Aug. 9. Pro-lifers from Tennessee and Georgia were in Charlotte to protest the proposed opening of an abortion clinic in Chattanooga Tenn.

# A united front

*Pro-lifers join forces outside Charlotte abortion clinic to make message clear*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Pro-life supporters from Charlotte, Augusta, Ga. and Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tenn. gathered Aug. 9 outside A Preferred Woman's Health Center in Charlotte to prayerfully protest the proposed opening of an abortion clinic in Chattanooga.

The clinic would be an offshoot of the Charlotte-based center, which has locations in Raleigh and Augusta.

"We are aware of the intent to start a clinic in Chattanooga," said Paul Simoneau, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Knoxville.

"Our message is 'never again,'"

Simoneau said.

Chattanooga has been "abortion clinic free" since 1993 when ProMaCC, the Pro-life Majority Coalition of Chattanooga, purchased the property that housed the city's only abortion clinic and evicted the physician who performed abortions. The property now houses the National Memorial for the Unborn.

"The function (of ProMaCC) is simply to be a spokesperson for all of the pro-life community," said Cynthia Kedrowski, president of Chattanoogaans for Life.

ProMaCC is a Christian organization made up of people from various denominations and backgrounds.

"We love the Lord and we agree on the gift of life," said Kedrowski.

ProMaCC organized the trip to Charlotte under the motto, "Pro-Life for the Long Haul."

Simoneau contacted respect life organizers in Charlotte and Kedrowski got in touch with her friends and former Chattanooga residents, Janice and George Neyer, parishoners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

George Neyer arranged for his fellow members from Knights of Columbus Council 10505 to come out for the vigil.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, of Charlotte, also came out to show his support.

"I am happy to be here to support the people from Tennessee and Georgia. They have driven hours and hours, and have made great sacrifices to be here for this prayer vigil," said Bishop Jugis.

"I am glad that people from our own diocese also have come to this vigil, especially the group from St. Mark's Life Teen program who were here very, very early," he said.

"My prayer is that the Lord will help all of us be messengers of mercy and peace in the face of the violence of abortion, and that the Lord will help us bring his light into this darkness," the bishop said.

"I think it's wonderful to have this act of solidarity," said Simoneau of the joint effort among the pro-life groups.

"We don't want abortion in any of our cities," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



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Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Prayer for the success of the Eucharistic Congress

O Jesus, who art really, truly and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament to be the food of our souls, deign to bless and bring to a successful issue all Eucharistic Congresses and gatherings, and especially the coming Congress of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Be thou the inspiration of our labors, resolutions and vows; accept graciously the solemn homage we will render to thee; send your Holy Spirit to kindle the hearts of priests, religious, and all the faithful, especially the children, so that devout participation in the holy Mass and frequent and daily holy Communion may be held in honor in all the countries of the world; and grant that the kingship of your Sacred Heart over human society may everywhere be acknowledged to the glory of God, the Father.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, bless the congress.

St. Paschal Baylon, pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, patroness of our diocese, pray for us.

St. Patrick, pray for us.

## Oración para el éxito espiritual del Congreso Eucarístico diocesano

¡Oh Jesús!, que estás real, substancial y verdaderamente presente en el Santísimo Sacramento del Altar para ser alimento de nuestras almas.

Dígnate bendecir y brindar el éxito a todos los Congresos Eucarísticos y asambleas eucarísticas, y muy especialmente a nuestro próximo Congreso Eucarístico de la Diócesis de Charlotte.

Sé Tú, Señor, la inspiración de todos nuestros trabajos, decisiones y votos. Acepta amablemente el solemne homenaje que te dirigimos; envíanos tu Santo Espíritu para que encienda en el corazón de tus sacerdotes, religiosos, y de todos tus fieles, especialmente el de los niños, una devota participación en la Santa Misa y una frecuente y diaria recepción de la comunión, que sea tomada con honor y respeto en todos las naciones del mundo; y concede que el reinado del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús sea más conocido en toda sociedad humana para mayor gloria de Dios Padre. Amén.

Sagrado Corazon de Jesús, bendice nuestro congreso.

San Pascual Bailon, ruega por nosotros.

Santa Maria Madre de Dios y patrona de nuestra diócesis, ruega por nosotros.

San Patricio, ruega por nosotros.

## Carless comment on shortage crisis

Father Eugene Hemrick states the cause of the current shortage crisis of natural resources is "our burgeoning and unrestrained populations" ("What's behind all these shortage crises?", Aug. 8).

What is Father Hemrick proposing? That the United States emulate China?

His comment belongs in American birth control activist Margaret Sanger's playbook, not a Catholic newspaper. How could you not screen out such trash from the newspaper?

— John Durkin  
Charlotte

## Detriments of mission trips

Donna Coennen's letter to the editor ("Mission trips to help Americans," Aug. 8) nailed it.

We may have it all wrong about the benefits of mission trips to foreign lands or resort islands when we have suffering people here in the United States.

It is confounding to me why people on islands or on a coastal areas surrounded by fish cannot be taught to fish. I wonder if we are enablers and not problem solvers.

We have immigrants coming from southeastern Asia who are thriving in coastal areas of the United States, fishing for a living and feeding their families.

Maybe we are trying to keep up with our Protestant brothers and sisters, many of them go on foreign mission trips to build churches and teach about the saving grace of knowing Jesus.

They get it right about teaching about Jesus Christ. Is that our mission or is it to just make us feel good about our selves?

Are we looking at this from the perspective of "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Jesus Christ), then all things will be added"?

— Joe Massi  
Waxhaw

## Benefits of mission trips

In response to Donna Coennen's letter to the editor ("Mission trips to help

## A Carmelite devotion that resonates with today's youth

*Scapulars pique curiosity about spirituality*

The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel not only caused me to study its origins again; it also taught me how attractive its tradition is to youth.

The story has it that Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to Simon Stock, the general of the Carmelites, and gave him a scapular. "This shall be the privilege for you and for all the Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall be saved," she told him.

The word "scapular" means shoulder. In religious orders it is considered the most important part of a monastic habit. It is a piece of cloth about the width of the breast, extending from one shoulder to the other.

It reaches down to the top of one's feet on both sides. Other, shorter forms also exist. When children made their first holy Communion, they were given a shorter version.

As I was reflecting on Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a provincial of the Carmelites happened to drop by my office. In our discussion of the scapular, he told me, "When students enroll in Carmelite schools, they look forward to receiving a scapular."

He then went on to say that one day while walking along a lake he spotted a lifeguard wearing the scapular. He also knew of basketball players who wear it on their ankles.

Normally it would be worn around the neck, but because it could choke a player, some people prefer to put it around their ankles.

The provincial also knew of people who wore the scapular until it literally

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



turned to dust.

As I listened to him, I wondered why young people are attracted to the scapular. No doubt the thought of it guaranteeing salvation is attractive, but what might be other reasons for this?

Studies on youth reveal that while they may not be religious, they are spiritual. They may not attend Mass, but they will recite the rosary.

The nature of youth is to be inquisitive and curious. Nothing piques curiosity more than the world of spirituality.

Some of the most enjoyable conversations I have had on spirituality were with young people. Inquisitiveness is at its highest level during this stage of their life. They will raise thought-provoking questions that the greatest of theologians never imagined.

Picturing Mary appearing to a person, the presentation of the scapular and the promise of salvation are fascinating to us but never so fascinating as to the mind of a youth.

This leads me to believe that our so-called old-fashioned devotions might just be in fashion with our youth and also may be a way of getting them to church.

## Letters to the Editor

Here we have help available from many sources, both private and government. In the Third World, help is much harder to find.

— Tim Mainhart  
Greensboro

Americans," Aug. 8) regarding Father Peter Daly's July 25 column, I would like to share some thoughts.

It is understood that money spent on airline and hotel fees might be "better" spent on the poor — for housing or food — rather than taking someone from their comfort zone to areas most affected by poverty. I believe, as Father Daly states, we can receive many benefits by being part of these missions to other countries.

A trip to Mexico or South or Central America will change your perspective. Each of us is called by Jesus to proclaim to the ends of the earth his message. For some of us, it may be a trip as far as China; for others, the trip may take you across the street.

Taking a mission trip outside country changes you, and not every country has the resources or will to help the poorest of the poor. I have been on trips both in the United States and in Nicaragua, and as great as the need is here it is greater in other countries.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification.

Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Summer's end: Contemplating autumn and God's time

*Changing seasons signal greater times to come*

The last days of summer are upon us. As a child, I didn't much like this August time of year. The summer I looked forward to the previous school year was fast disappearing, and soon a new school year would intrude upon what seemed to me then the truest form of human freedom: a child's unmanaged hours of summer leisure.

As a young boy my small hands would cling fast to summer vacation, unprepared to concede that my early summer perspective of unlimited free time was unrealistic. Though older now, I still sometimes find myself resisting the calendar turn from summer to fall.

The flip of the month triggers a bittersweet mixture of memories of much anticipated summer family get-togethers as well as summer projects not yet accomplished.

Now, of course, I still see the boy in the mirror, but God who sees us both calms our jointly-managed, anxious heart and permits us to know him as the God of all seasons.

Even thinking back to Easter in late summer brings to mind the joy of our redemption through Christ, of spring and the beauty of new beginnings.

In between Easter and now, the church has honored the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ and helped us welcome

the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost still at work in the here and now.

The precious summer weeks that remain are allowed to ripen the seed of faith. The church calendar of late summer also brings its own special beauty in the feast of the Assumption.

In mid-August, the image of Mary, the mother of Jesus, being taken into God's presence without the pain or anxiety of death underscores how the peace of summer need never end. Mary's miraculous journey awaits us if we follow her example of submission to the divine will.

During the 20 years I was privileged to teach at the University of Notre Dame, it always seemed to me that the statue of Mary atop the Golden Dome, the university's famed administration building in the center of the campus, stood in ever more tranquil splendor on this feast day.

Each Aug. 15, Jesus' mother seemed to gently tilt her head and smile upon the nearby Indiana and Michigan countrysides as they were being prepared almost imperceptibly by God's hand for the fall harvest.

The students had not yet returned, enabling August to remain a casual walk in undisturbed admiration for the morning dew on lush green lawns edged

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS  
KMEC  
GUEST COLUMNIST



by goldenrod and purple sage.

Oh yes, September arrives, but bathed in the true light of faith and God's seasons, the mind is reassured. The sprinkled dew of Our Lady's August yields to September's moist condensation on front-porch swings.

The harvest season is open. And I am ready.

Soon enough will come the feast day of St. Michael near September's end. Michael, it will be recalled, is the good Lord's "great harvester" who, when all our final seasons are at end, will lead the worthy to paradise.

Tony Snow and Tim Russert, friends who began the summer with us, are gone. In one case God gave notice; in the other, he did not.

Like the child within my memory who mistakenly thought summer's end could be resisted, neither man knew his moment and both likely planned — as we all pretend to do — beyond it.

In the passing of each season, we come to appreciate how our lives progress in God's time, not our own. If we are accepting of that, we lose none of our summer days. Instead, we gain the restful reassurance of even greater times to come.

# God calls all people to holiness, to be saints, says pope

## The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — All people are called to holiness, and having extraordinary gifts does not make someone a greater saint than someone else, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Precisely the 'normal' saints are the kind of saints God wants," the pope said Aug. 20 at his weekly general audience.

"Holiness is not a luxury. It is not the privilege of a few, something impossible for a normal person," the pope told an estimated 4,000 people gathered at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Holiness, he said, "is the common destiny of all people called to be children of God; it is the universal vocation of all the baptized."

Pope Benedict said the summer holidays are a perfect time to pick up a biography or the writings of a saint, but that the church's calendar also gives Catholics a daily opportunity to contemplate a saint.

"Naturally, not all saints are equal," he said. They are different from one another like rays of "divine light" that have passed through a prism, he said.

"And a great saint is not necessarily one who possesses extraordinary charisms. In fact, there are many whose names are known to God alone because on earth they led an apparently normal life," he said.

The example of the so-called normal saints proves that when one has a close relationship with God he or she is filled with joy and peace and becomes a source of serenity and optimism for others, the pope said. By canonizing some of the holy men and women who have lived throughout the centuries and by remembering them at feast-day Masses, the church proposes them as examples for all Catholics, the pope said.

"Cultivating a knowledge of and devotion to the saints, alongside daily meditation on the word of God and a filial love toward the Blessed Mother" is "important and profitable," he said.

Pope Benedict highlighted some of the saints whose feasts fall Aug. 19-23: John Eudes, Bernard of Clairvaux, Pius X and Rose of Lima.

The pope mentioned the four saints, but focused specifically on St. Pius, "who, in a difficult period, led the church and renewed the liturgy, in that way renewing the church from the inside."

In addition to encouraging the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist, St. Pius was particularly strong in insisting on proper decorum during the celebration of the Mass.

He highlighted the beauty of Gregorian chant and encouraged efforts to ensure the faithful could participate actively in the Mass by singing.

# Forty years after 'Humanae Vitae'

*Secular culture got many things wrong, God did not*

Forty years ago there was an eruption in the Catholic Church over the release of Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life").

At the time, secular culture pronounced it a "dead letter." Cultural critics said the church was out of touch with the modern age on the role of human sexuality.

"Humanae Vitae" was blamed for the erosion of respect for the church's moral teaching and the departure of many people from the Catholic Church.

But, at the time, secular culture made some pretty extravagant claims for the virtues of artificial contraception. Forty years on, it is worth asking, What about the claims of secular culture? Were they right?

The first birth control pill came on the market in the early 1960s. It was featured on the cover of news magazines. It was talked about on television. People said it would usher in a new and happier age of sexual relations.

Did it?

Forty years ago it was said that artificial contraception would make marriages happier and more stable. Freed from the stress of many children, married couples would be better able to concentrate on each other and their marriage.

So what happened?

The divorce rate has skyrocketed. Marriages are less stable. There were

many cultural factors involved, of course, but whatever can be said about birth control, it has not made marriages happier or more stable in U.S. culture.

Forty years ago it was said that the pill would mean more fulfilled sex lives. People could be more spontaneous. Sex would be more joyful. People would be less repressed.

Did it happen?

Separating the sexual act from conception has degraded the meaning of sex, caused it to lose its significance. Instead of being special, a sign of love and commitment reserved for husbands and wives, it is now commonplace.

When something becomes commonplace it loses its allure. Ice cream and cake, for example, are special if reserved for birthdays. If eaten all the time, they are boring, even damaging.

The pill has meant that sex is meaningless, the stuff of sit-coms and lurid talk shows.

In our modern world sex has nothing to do with making babies. It also has very little to do with making love. The surreal "Sex in the City" world has turned everyone into a sex object, because sex is seen as an act without meaning or consequence.

It has more to do with giving pleasure to the self than showing love for the other.

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER  
DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



Forty years ago the advocates for contraception said that it would mean fewer unwanted children. There would be less child abuse and neglect because children would be more wanted since they were more "planned."

Ironically, today children seem less wanted. They are seen not as gifts from God but as financial burdens. Television reporters do stories on the "total cost" of raising a child as if children could be compared to buying a boat or second home.

With the ability to prevent pregnancy came the presumption that you should prevent pregnancy. Babies are now regarded as a burden. Large families are regarded with derision even in Catholic circles.

Birth control has led to an anti-child mentality. When a woman today begins to show with a third or fourth pregnancy, people ask her, "Did you make a mistake, dear?"

Forty years ago there was an explosion in the church over "Humanae Vitae." Now that the dust has begun to settle a bit, it seems that secular culture was wrong about many of its claims for birth control.

It helps to take the long view. Maybe that is God's view?





## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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October 3 & 4, 2008

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

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#### FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Greeting - Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Concert of Sacred Music for the Liturgical Season  
featuring a diocesan choir with 120 voices of praise
- Keynote Speaker - His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley, D.D., Ph.D.
- Catholic Shops



#### SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour - Homilist Archbishop John F. Donoghue
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

#### GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



Tarek Saab  
"Faith Gut Check"



Fr. Richard Ho Lung  
"Love for the Eucharist in Serving the Poor"



Denis McNamara  
"Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture"



Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.  
"Proclaiming Christ through our Reverence  
for the Human Person"

#### HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



Roberto Ramirez  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



Hna. Bertha López Chávez  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



Lupita Venegas  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

## Perspectives

Finding your vocation; the  
price of life; proud to be  
Catholic; Pope Speaks

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SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 37

## Making disciples

*Workshop examines  
ways to foster faithful  
enthusiasm*

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

SYLVA — E for Evangeliza-  
tion. E for Enthusiasm.

Eighteen attendees from  
the Smoky Mountain and  
Asheville vicariates looked  
at aspects of evangelization  
during "Spreading the Good  
News: How Catholics Share  
Our Faith."

Frank Villaronga, director  
of evangelization and ministry  
formation for the Diocese  
of Charlotte, presented the  
workshop at St. Mary, Mother of  
God Church in Sylva Aug. 23.

Villaronga began his  
presentation with Matthew  
28: 16-20, in which Jesus' last

See SHARE, page 7

## Grappling with Gustav

*One Louisiana diocese  
hit hardest by hurricane*

BY PETER FINNEY JR.  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS —

Though it appeared Sept. 2 that  
the Archdiocese of New Orleans  
sustained minimal damage to its  
buildings and operations from  
Hurricane Gustav, New Orleans  
Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes  
feared the Diocese of Houma-  
Thibodaux was battered the  
hardest of Louisiana's seven  
dioceses during the Labor Day-  
weekend storm.

See GUSTAV, page 5

## 'An amazing ride when God is the guide'



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Norman Fischer gestures during his preaching at the Revival of the Spirit at St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain Aug. 23. The annual event was held at several locations around the Diocese of Charlotte this year.

See REVIVAL, page 9

## Sister, 'start your engine'

*Nun takes to the track for charity race,  
proves she can handle the turns*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

STANLEY — Mercy Sister  
Patricia Ann Pepitone revved  
the engine of her four-cylinder  
stock car from her place at the  
pole position on East Lincoln  
Speedway Saturday.

This was Sister Pepitone's  
first year participating in the  
Aug. 23 "Clash of the Clergy,"  
the annual fundraiser benefiting  
East Lincoln Christian Ministry,

but judging from the size of her  
cheering section it probably  
won't be her last.

It was the fourth year for  
the event, in which clergy and  
representatives from 20 area  
churches race stock cars around  
a three-eighth mile dirt track.

Sister Pepitone repre-  
sented Holy Spirit Church  
in Denver, where she serves

See RACE, page 8



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Mercy Sister Patricia Ann Pepitone, pastoral associate at Holy Spirit Church in Denver, waves from a stock car while awaiting the start of the "Clash of the Clergy" final race at East Lincoln Speedway Aug. 23.

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### Around the Diocese

Convents blessed; Sisters  
elect new leadership team

| PAGE 4

### Culture Watch

Priest's horror stories in book;  
nun beauty pageant scrapped

| PAGES 10-11

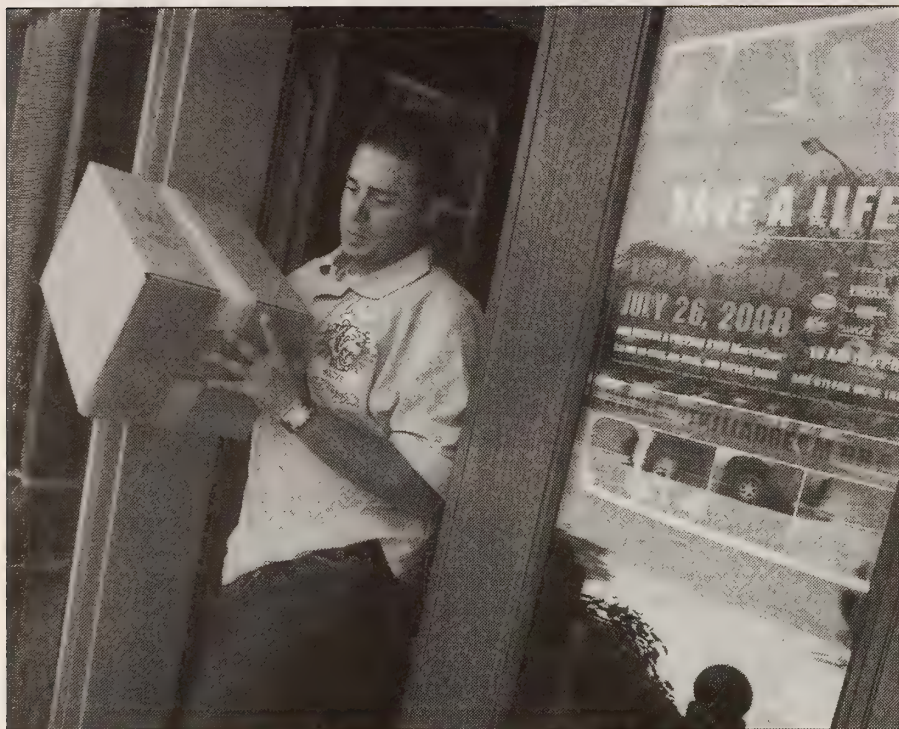
28 days until the  
Eucharistic Congress  
Oct. 3-4.  
see back page and visit  
www.goecathol.com



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## CHURCHES RESPONDING TO CRIME CRISIS



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Police officer Angel Cintron carries a box of weapons from the rectory at St. Agatha Church in Chicago July 26. More than 6,800 weapons were turned in at 25 church locations in the city during the fourth annual Don't Kill A Dream, Save A Life event. Those turning in guns and other deadly weapons received a \$100 gift card in the effort designed to get firearms off the streets.

## As Chicago experiences violent summer, Catholic communities respond

CHICAGO (CNS) — It started in April, when headlines screamed “36 shootings, nine homicides” over the course of one weekend in Chicago. Since then, the violence has continued, with news of shootings nearly every day.

The violence has touched the Catholic community, with Catholic school students and adult Catholics among the victims, and violence occurring near and sometimes even on church property.

On June 30, a 15-year-old student at St. Francis de Sales High School was shot and wounded while walking home with friends. An 11-year-old girl who was part of the group also was shot.

Police said they don't think either young person was the intended target of the shooting.

On July 1, another 15-year-old was shot, apparently the victim of an armed robbery, in the rectory basement at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. Two other teens, with whom he was playing dice, have been charged in the crime.

On July 2, Chicago police officer Richard Francis was shot and killed during a disturbance across the street from police headquarters. A 45-year-old woman was charged with killing him.

Francis, 60, was laid to rest at St. Monica Church July 7.

In response to the violence, parishes have sponsored anti-violence marches; offered opportunities for young people to get off the streets and into activities, such as playing basketball at a church's gym; and helped people find employ-

ment by holding job training and mentoring programs.

The church is called to respond to violence by praying, but it has to do more than that, said Nicholas Lund-Molfese, director of the Chicago archdiocesan Office for Peace and Justice, just as it must do something to feed people who are hungry, in addition to praying for them.

To that end, the office recently hired Meghan Mayo, a graduate student in social justice at Loyola University Chicago, to help parishes find effective ways to respond to and prevent violence.

Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis used a July 12 march at St. Agatha Church to release Chicago crime statistics for June 2008.

Overall, murders were up almost 13 percent from 2007. About 40 percent of the murders were classified as gang-related, and in most of the rest the victims knew their attackers, he said.

Nearly 90 percent of the people charged in homicide cases had prior criminal records; so did more than 70 percent of the victims.

St. Agatha Church also was one of five Catholic parishes that participated in a July 26 gun-turn-in program organized by the Chicago police. The effort brought in more than 6,800 weapons overall.

At St. Monica Church, the two-hour funeral Mass for Francis, a 27-year veteran of the police force, was celebrated by Father Thomas Nangle, chaplain to the Chicago Police Department, who also delivered the homily.

## Indian priest describes mob ordeal 'like being tortured for Christ'

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — Father Thomas Chellen, undergoing treatment at a Catholic hospital in Bhubaneswar, India, said he was grateful to be alive after a Hindu mob nearly set him on fire.

“They had poured kerosene on my head, and one held a matchbox in his hands to light the fire. But thanks to divine providence, in the end, they did not do that,” the 55-year-old priest, director of the pastoral center at Konjamendi in the Indian state of Orissa, said in an interview from his hospital bed Aug. 28.

Following the Aug. 23 murder of a Hindu leader, Swami Laxmananda Saraswati, by Maoist extremists, Father Chellen said Hindu mobs started attacking Christian centers in Kandhamal, the district where the slain leader was based.

When a Hindu mob of 500 people broke into the pastoral center Aug. 24, Father Chellen fled with another priest and a nun as the center was vandalized

and burned to the ground.

They fled and Father Chellen and the nun took shelter in the house of a Hindu friend. However, Hindu mobs tracked them down and dragged them outside.

“They began our crucifixion parade,” said Father Chellen. The gang of about 50 armed Hindus “beat us up and led us like culprits along the road.”

They were stripped and beaten repeatedly, and the nun was raped, all while police watched, according to Father Chellen.

“The four-hour ordeal ended when a senior police officer arrived in the evening,” said Father Chellen.

Father Chellen was admitted to the hospital Aug. 27, while the traumatized nun was taken to a convent.

Asked about the how the nun coped with the trauma, Father Chellen said: “We had no option and were simply following their commands. We resisted as much as we could. This is like being tortured for Christ.”

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

Monday evenings during September. Join us on Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m. We will explore important modern issues in today's society. RSVP to [jennifer.eues@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.eues@gmail.com). For more information, go online to [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — The quarterly *Blood Give-In* will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Sunday, Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Parish Center Family Room. Sign-ups will be held in the narthex on Sept. 6 and 7. A picture ID is required at registration the day of the blood drive. Walk-ins will be taken as time permits. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — To honor the 50th Anniversary of St. Gabriel School, there will be a picnic supper held Saturday, Sept. 27, after the 5 p.m. Mass at the St. Gabriel School athletic fields. All alumni are invited to share photos, yearbooks and mementos and to take part in the celebration. RSVP by Sept. 15 to Sally McArdle at (704) 541-1756 or [mcardle@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mcardle@carolina.rr.com), or contact Mary Ann Thomas at (704) 366-6985 or [3thomas4@carolina.rr.com](mailto:3thomas4@carolina.rr.com).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* meets Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the library at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The group will start a six-week program on St. Paul beginning Sept. 2. Topics will include St. Paul's teachings on faith and works, marriage and chastity, the church and sacraments, the Jews and the rapture. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at [gmagrinat@pol.net](mailto:gmagrinat@pol.net), or contact John Malmfelt at [jmalmsie@aol.com](mailto:jmalmsie@aol.com).

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Economic gap requires response by Christians, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Poverty, particularly the growing gap between the world's rich and poor, is one of the most dramatic situations the world is facing and requires a response by Christians as well as by governments, said Cardinal Renato Martino.

The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, announced that his office is preparing a document on "poverty in the age of globalization."

He made his announcement during an August visit to Tanzania, where he hosted a continentwide presentation on the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

"The commitment to organizing and structuring society in such a way as to ensure one's neighbor does not find himself in poverty is an indispensable act of charity," said the cardinal.

The obligation to work for the eradication of poverty is especially

binding, he said, "when a boundless number of people and even whole populations" are sinking further into poverty while the world's wealthiest people get richer.

He said the situation has assumed "the proportions of a truly global social question. Poverty — especially the growing inequality between regions, between continents and between countries and within countries — constitutes the most dramatic problem facing the world."

Cardinal Martino said the Gospel calls Christians to imitate Jesus and "give preference to the poor, addressing our energy and resources to the poor, and to contemplating the renewal of society beginning with the needs of the poor."

He said the document would "indicate a Gospel approach to combating poverty" and raise Catholics' consciousness about poverty, especially the fact that women and children form the biggest portion of the extremely poor people in the world.

**HIGH POINT** — Free Spanish classes will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 18. For information or to register, call Nancy at (336) 884-0522, or e-mail Larry at HLKwan@lexcominc.net.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

**BRYSON CITY** — "Stewardship: A Way of Life" will be presented by Barbara Gaddy, associate director of the Office of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte, Sept. 10 at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., following the 4 p.m. Mass and a covered dish supper. The presentation will include background on stewardship from Scripture and traditions in the church; ways of promoting stewardship activities in the parish; and the fruits of a parish stewardship effort. For more information, e-mail Mary Herr at maryherr@dnet.net or call (828) 497-9498.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

**CLEMMONS** — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will conduct an ongoing series called "Catholics Returning Home" on six consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 9. These sessions are for nonpracticing Catholics who are interested in returning to the church. There will be informal sharing and an update on the Catholic faith. For more details, call Sean or Kelly Hines at (336) 940-6053 or e-mail hinesnc@adelphia.net.

**CLEMMONS** — Dr. Martha Shuping will deliver a pro-life message entitled "The Burden of Choice and the Steps to Healing" in the Parish Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., Sept. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Shuping has spoken extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad on post-abortion healing; she has organized and presented workshops for Concerned Women for America at the United Nations; she is an author, a practicing psychiatrist and a volunteer

with Rachel's Vineyard Ministries. Shuping will cover various pro-life topics and will encourage attendance at the upcoming 40 Days for Life. There is no charge to attend this event. For more information, contact Donna at (336) 940-2558.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — In an effort to give practical help to married and engaged couples to live out the teaching of the Catholic Church, a course on *natural family planning* will begin Sept. 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Come learn how to build your marriage relationship with better communication skills and enhanced intimacy by sharing the responsibility for birth regulation. For more information, contact Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — The national 40 Days for Life campaign will be held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or go online to [www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem](http://www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

**Sept. 6 (7:15 a.m.)**  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**Sept. 7 (9 a.m.)**  
Pastor installation of Father Fred Werth  
St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill

**Sept. 10 (6:30 p.m.)**  
Seventh annual MACS Circle of Celebration  
Charlotte

**Sept. 11 (5 p.m.)**  
Opening Mass for Catholic Leadership Conference  
St. Peter Church, Charlotte

# Solar panels on Vatican hall first of several projects, says engineer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican will begin installing some 2,400 solar panels in late September, the first of several projects aimed at exploiting renewable energy resources in the tiny city-state.

The solar modules, which are being donated by a German company, will be fitted atop the roof of the Paul VI audience hall and will produce some 300,000 kilowatt-hours of power each year, said Mauro Villarini, the Vatican engineer coordinating the project.

Construction of the solar-energy system will continue through October, while Pope Benedict XVI and some 250 bishops meet inside the audience hall for a synod on the Bible.

Villarini said another solar-panel system would be installed this fall above the Vatican's employee cafeteria, providing 60 percent to 70 percent of the power needed to heat and cool the building.

Both solar-energy systems are expected to be operating by the end of the year, Villarini said.

In addition, he said, Vatican experts

were studying other "green" projects that may be particularly suited to Vatican City and its properties outside Rome, including the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo.

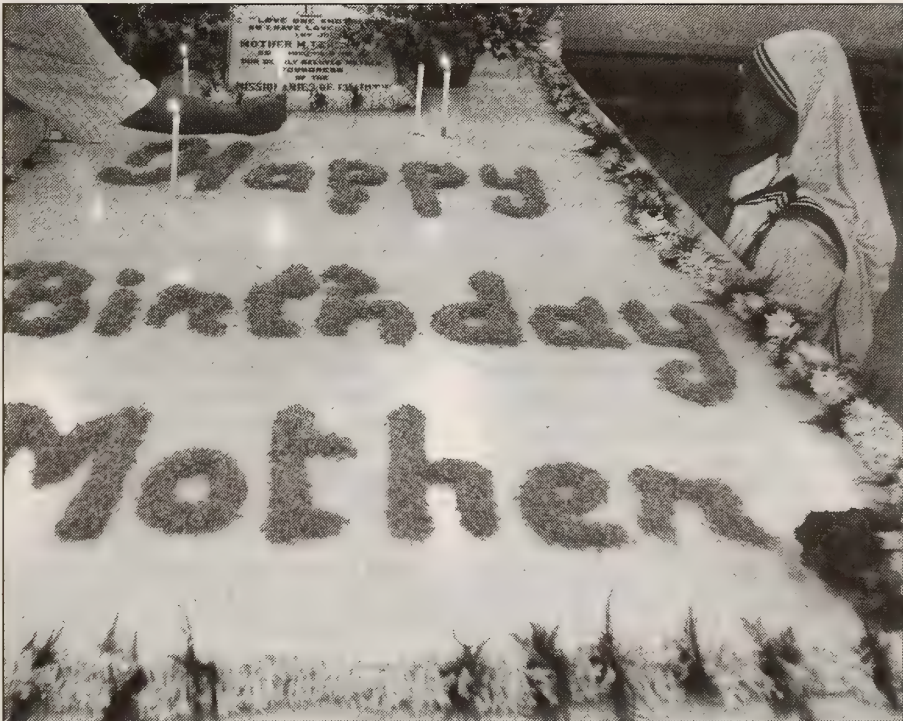
They include the possibility of small windmills, as well as treatment plants that would break down biodegradable material to produce methane and biogas, he said.

Villarini said the solar panels atop the audience hall would furnish enough power to meet the annual energy needs of about 100 families.

Even so, he said, the system will not come close to meeting the energy demands of the huge building, which uses some 2 million kilowatt-hours of power every year. The important thing, he said, is that it is a first, major step toward energy self-sufficiency.

Villarini said the Vatican's ecological initiatives were born out of a series of talks given by Pope Benedict, who said at the beginning of 2007 that humanity cannot continue its present patterns of exploiting natural resources.

# 'Happy Birthday Mother'



CNS PHOTO BY PARTH SANYAL, REUTERS

A Missionaries of Charity nun prays beside the tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, Aug. 26, the late nun's birthday. Bishop Peter J. Jugis recently blessed a new facility for the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte. See page 6 for more details.

# Betancourt: Meeting pope was 'dream come true'

ROME (CNS) — Former Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt said it was "a dream come true" to meet the pope.

After meeting Pope Benedict XVI Sept. 1, Betancourt said she was fairly certain she broke Vatican protocol "because as soon as I went in, I hugged the pope and maybe I wasn't supposed to do that."

Betancourt, a former presidential candidate in Colombia, was freed by Colombian rebels in early July after more than six years as a hostage.

Immediately after her release she had said she wanted to meet Pope Benedict to thank him for his prayers and public

appeals for her release.

Along with her mother, sister, her sister's children and a cousin, Betancourt spent 25 minutes with the pope at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo. She spoke afterward at a press conference in Rome.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the climate of the meeting was "very emotional."

"Her period as a prisoner was a time of great spiritual experience, of prayer, and so she really wanted to tell the Holy Father about the importance faith played in sustaining her during that very difficult period," Father Lombardi said.



# Cornerstone of faith

## Bishop Jugis blesses cornerstone of new convent in High Point

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

HIGH POINT — The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul will soon have a new home from which to serve.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the cornerstone of the new convent to be built in High Point Aug. 16.

The cornerstone is symbolic in that it represents the cornerstone of the universal Catholic Church — Jesus.

Ken Hughes, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, donated to the Sisters of Charity the 16.5 acres on which to build the convent. Other parishioners are helping acquire the funds and resources needed for construction.

"Parishioners old and new, as well as the local community, are contributing to get the Sisters their own convent," said parishioner David Long.

"We want to make it, we want to build it," said parishioner Luis Sanchez.

"There are many hard challenges here. There is a long way before we finish, but we can do it," he said.

The enthusiasm for the Sisters is out of gratitude for their tireless service to the church and the community.

"We had no ambition to do anything but what God wanted us to do," said Sister Archana, superior of the Sisters of Charity in High Point. "We never thought of building our own convent, but God showed us the way."

The Sisters of Charity's mission in High Point began in 2000, when 10 members of the congregation came to Christ the King Church at the request of Father Philip Kollithanath, pastor.

Father Kollithanath, who arrived from India in 1994, was overseeing a growing multicultural parish and invited the Sisters of Charity to conduct the religious education program and other ministerial work, including operation of the parish day care center.

The Sisters, who currently reside in a small house a few miles from the church, also have worked at Maryfield nursing home and a High Point hospital.

"When the Sisters arrived, they, together with Father Philip, really started turning the parish around. And the parish grew in numbers and activities," said Long. "They have done amazing things with the large Hispanic and the English-language faith formation programs."

The Sisters manage the parish Hispanic center, which was founded in 1999 to serve area Hispanics through various programs and services. The De Paul Academy offers bilingual preschool and afterschool programs for Hispanics and other minority children, and teaches parents how to help their children in school.

"The coming of the Sisters has been a tremendous help," said parishioner Austine Nwokolo. "With the love and encouragement of Father Philip and the Sisters, the parishioners are doing whatever it takes to get the parish moving forward."

"The priest, the Sisters and the people are all willing to contribute time and energy to the growth of the church," said Mary Wardell, who is among the parishioners to have assisted the Sisters in their work.

Like Sister Archana, Father Kollithanath credits God for all the good that has transpired.

"God's blessings are everywhere," said Father Kollithanath. "And it is God alone who brings forth the support and efforts of the good people of the community."

"It is a sign of God's will that we are doing this (building the convent)," said Sister Archana.

"As far as finances are concerned, we leave it in God's hands. He has already had 16.5 acres donated for the convent. And we have already planted an apple and fig orchard."

"The Sisters of Charity are doing great work in High Point," said Bishop Jugis. "They bring the love of Christ to the poor, the sick and the immigrants through their various ministries, and they do it with such a joyful spirit," he said.

"I look forward to the day when we will celebrate the blessing of their new convent," said the bishop.

## Convent of Charity



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the chapel of the new convent of the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte Aug. 22. The facility also will function as a short-term maternity home for homeless pregnant women 18 years of age and older. Also pictured is Deacon Brian McNulty, seminarian Josh Bradford and guests invited to the blessing ceremony.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the new Sisters of Mercy South Central Community Leadership Team are pictured during the 2008 Assembly of Elections at Xavier University in Cincinnati July 10-12. They are (from left) Mercy Sister Kathy Green (president), Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, Mercy Sister Barbara Wheeley, Mercy Sister Mary Angela Perez, Mercy Sister Jane Hotstream (vice president) and Mercy Sister Marie Chin.

## Sisters of Mercy South Central Community elect inaugural leaders

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community have elected their inaugural leadership team.

Mercy Sister Kathy Green of Cincinnati was elected to be the community's first president by more than 430 Sisters of Mercy from 18 states, Guam and Jamaica who attended the 2008 Assembly of Elections at Xavier University in Cincinnati July 10-12.

Others elected to serve on the first South Central Community Leadership Team included Mercy Sister Paulette Williams of Belmont, N.C.

The leadership team, which will be based in Belmont, assumed office Sept. 2.

The election culminated a process that began in 2002, when the Sisters of Mercy of the regional communities of Baltimore, Cincinnati, North Carolina and St. Louis — along with the affiliated regions of Guam and Jamaica — began exploring a collaborative organizational model.

During the past six years, leadership teams, task forces and committees from the regional communities laid the groundwork for creating a new community to support their life and mission.

"Our desire to reshape and reform

the community grew from our call as Sisters of Mercy to reach out with courage and love to the needy of our time," said Sister Green. "As apostolic women religious in the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, we have a new community that is not simply a merger, but a new creation."

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community includes about 748 sisters, 619 associates and one companion in Mercy.

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas is an international community of women religious vowed to serve people who suffer from poverty, sickness and lack of education, with a special concern for women and children.

In addition to the South Central Community, the institute is comprised of five other communities with more than 4,200 Sisters who serve in North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Guam and the Philippines.

More than 3,000 Mercy associates, several companions in Mercy, more than 600 Mercy Volunteer Corps alumni and hundreds of co-workers in Sisters of Mercy-sponsored programs and institutions also share in its mission.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Sister Archana, superior of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, watches Aug. 16 as Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the cornerstone of the Sisters' future convent to be constructed in High Point. Also pictured (from left) are seminarian Josh Bradford, Michael Hellickson and Brian Hairston.

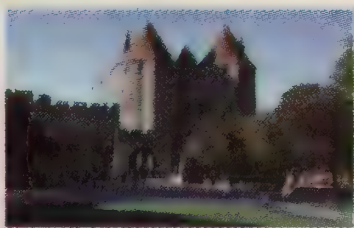




CNS PHOTO BY LEE CELANO, REUTERS

Mitch Gaudet picks up yard debris near a statue of Mary in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in New Orleans Sept. 2. The center of Hurricane Gustav came ashore as a Category 2 hurricane near Cocodrie, La., Sept. 1.

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## Houma-Thibodaux feared Louisiana diocese hit worst by hurricane

GUSTAV, from page 1

Archbishop Hughes, who rode out Hurricane Gustav at the St. Louis Cathedral rectory after helping hundreds of residents evacuate the city on buses, said he spoke briefly late Sept. 1 with Houma-Thibodaux Bishop Sam G. Jacobs at the St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Thibodaux.

Though Bishop Jacobs did not have any confirmed reports of damage to areas in the low-lying Terrebonne and Lafourche civil parishes, Archbishop Hughes said Bishop Jacobs feared the damage would be significant.

Bishop Jacobs spent the evening at the co-cathedral rectory in Thibodaux. The Archdiocese of New Orleans assigned Aaron Portier of Catholic Charities of New Orleans to serve as a liaison to the Houma-Thibodaux area.

Catholic Charities USA's disaster response team has been on the ground in the Gulf Coast since before the storm hit, helping the local Catholic Charities agencies implement their disaster response plans, said spokeswoman Shelley Borysiewicz. Catholic Charities' initial recovery work will focus on directing critical resources and supplies to hurricane victims, Borysiewicz said.

Local Catholic Charities agencies plan to open community resource sites throughout the impacted region where families can access food, water, toiletries, cleanup supplies and other resources provided by partner agencies.

In addition, response teams will make damage assessments and identify communities' unmet needs, she said.

Baton Rouge Bishop Robert W. Muench told Archbishop Hughes that the gymnasium at St. Anthony of Padua Church in North Baton Rouge, which

sheltered a number of Vietnamese refugees, sustained major roof damage. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Archbishop Hughes said the worst damage in the Archdiocese of New Orleans was expected to be in the Lafitte area, which is always subject to flooding, and in lower Plaquemines Parish on the banks of the Mississippi River.

St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans appeared to suffer only minor damage. The winds dislodged several slates from the cathedral roof, Archbishop Hughes said, but there was no flooding. The rectory lost power for about 11 hours.

After the worst winds subsided, New Orleans police officers gave Archbishop Hughes a tour of the city. Compared to Hurricane Katrina three years ago, there was little flooding or visible damage to archdiocesan facilities, he said.

New Orleans Auxiliary Bishop Roger P. Morin and Father Jose Lavastida, Notre Dame Seminary rector, rode out the storm at the seminary with power supplied by a generator.

Schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans were expected to be closed for the remainder of the week. The archdiocese will follow the reopening timetable set by the local public school systems.

Lake Charles Bishop Glen J. Provost was scheduled to take a damage-assessment tour of his southwest Louisiana diocese Sept. 2. Lake Charles was badly damaged by Hurricane Rita in 2005. Alexandria Bishop Ronald P. Herzog did not expect much damage in his diocese, located in the geographic center of Louisiana.

Archbishop Hughes praised local officials for learning the hard lessons from Katrina on how to properly evacuate thousands of residents in advance of a major hurricane.

"The evacuation was extraordinarily orderly and smooth," he said.



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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Continuing a tradition of faith

## Ancient order invests six new members in Diocese of Charlotte

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Six new members were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem during the order's annual Scroll Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Aug. 3.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, a member of the order, celebrated the Mass and presented the scrolls to the new members.

The scrolls are significant in welcoming and honoring members in the long-standing order.

John Piuino, lieutenant of the order's Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, assisted Bishop Jugis in presenting the scrolls from Rome, which confirm admission to John Thomas Bateson, Angela Mary Labermaier Eggeston, Deborah Elizabeth Burns Kane, William Robert Kane and Thomas Edmund McGahey.

New member Lawrence Gilliam Sr. was in absentia.

Promoted to the rank of Lady

Commander with Star was Rose Marie Bell. Promoted to Knight Commander with Star was James Bell.

The order, which dates back to the 11th century, is dedicated to preserving Christ's tomb in Jerusalem as well as supporting Catholic schools, hospitals, orphanages and churches in the Holy Land.

Members, who are invited to join, are invested during a centuries-old ceremony and each receives a scroll imprinted with the seals of the Vatican secretary of state and the cardinal grand master.

On the local level, members lend their presence in support of their bishop by participating in ceremonies of the diocese.

The goal of each knight and lady is to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, for which they are awarded the prized Pilgrim's Shell by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

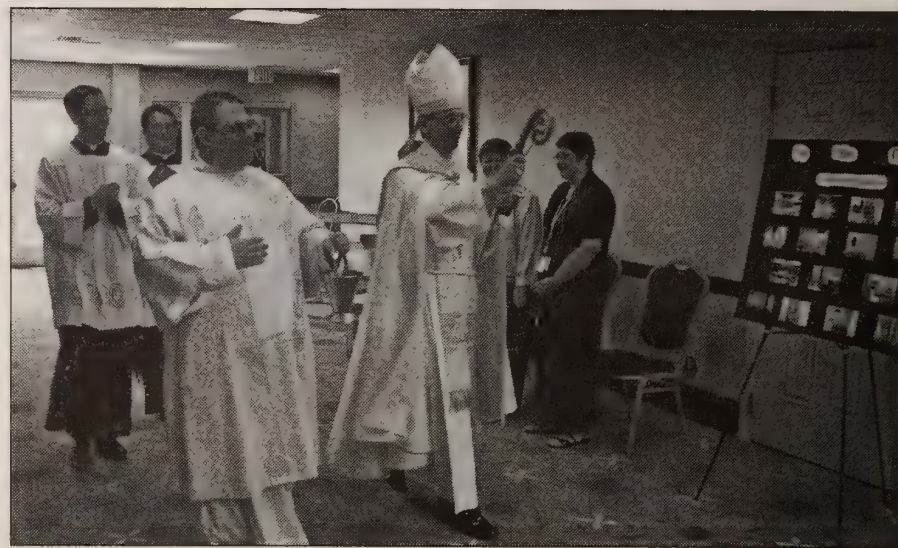


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the interior of a building at Pennybyrn at Maryfield retirement community in High Point Aug. 15. Also pictured (from left) are seminarians Josh Bradford and Josh Voitus, and transitional Deacon Ben Roberts.

## Bishop, deacons bless Pennybyrn

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

HIGH POINT — Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the buildings and grounds of the new Pennybyrn at Maryfield campus in High Point Aug. 15.

Also assisting with the blessing of buildings and grounds were Deacons Ron Steinkamp, David King and Fred Scarletto.

The blessings were part of the

continuing care retirement community's grand opening festivities Aug. 14-15.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The campus also offers spiritual retreats, reflection days, daily celebration of the Eucharist and an onsite perpetual adoration chapel.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218, or e-mail [gpotkay@triad.rr.com](mailto:gpotkay@triad.rr.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem after the order's annual Scroll Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Aug. 3.

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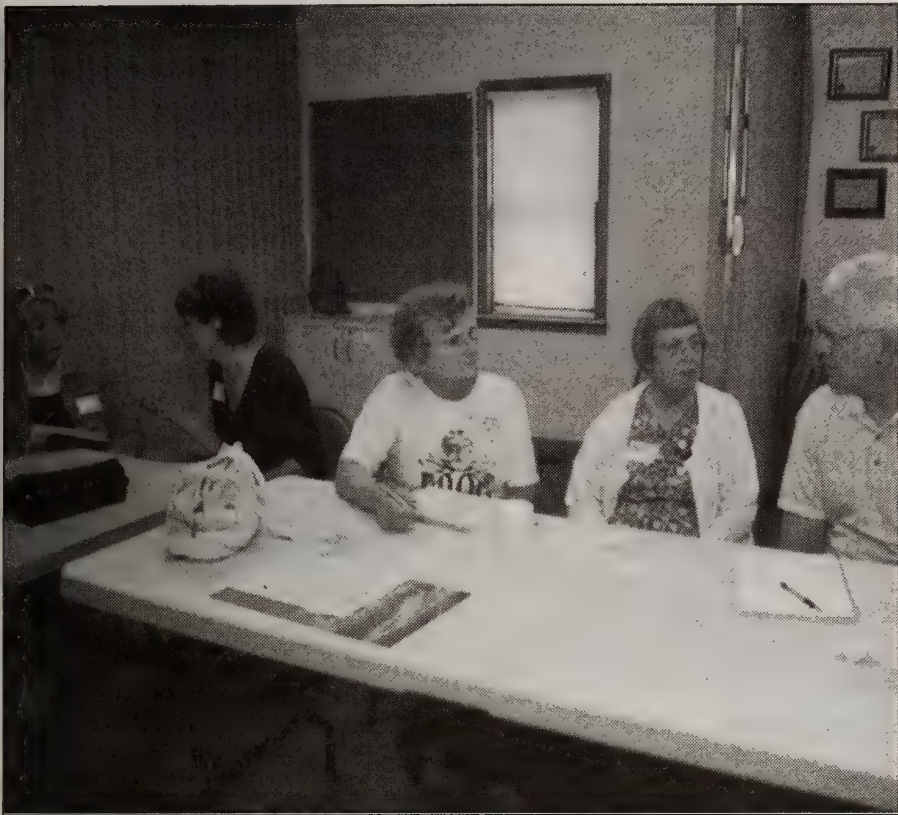


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Discussing issues during an evangelization workshop at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva Aug. 23 are (from left) Evie Byrnes and Heidi Shull of Our Lady of the Mountains Mission in Highlands; and Cathie Tilly, Mary Herr, and David Tilly of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City.

# Workshop examines ways to foster faithful enthusiasm

SHARE, from page 1

words to his disciples are, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

"It's important to hear that, because evangelization begins with Jesus," Villaronga said, adding later that, "Christ's whole mission was to evangelize. We flow out of that reality. Evangelization is the transformation of humanity."

It's not primarily about knocking on doors. "People have thought of evangelization as what you do to get them into RCIA, to get them into the Catholic Church, and then the church takes over," Villaronga said.

First, we must ourselves be evangelized. This, Villaronga said, is not "just preaching the Gospel; it's about allowing the power of the Gospel to transform humanity ... encountering the reality (of the Gospel) in such a way that you want to and do transform your life."

"It's about us opening ourselves to the power of the Gospel," he said.

Then, transformed by that power, we evangelize others by really living our faith, he said.

Villaronga cited the U.S. bishops' "Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States," first published in 1992 and reissued in 2002.

The document states that evangelization goals are to bring about in all Catholics an enthusiasm for their faith; to invite others to hear Jesus' message of salvation and join the Catholic Church; to foster Gospel values in society and to promote human dignity, family and the common good.

Villaronga asked people to gather in groups to discuss issues in their local communities.

"When we talk about going into the world to make disciples, we need to know what the world looks like," he said.

In the "world" of western North Carolina, according to those in the workshop, issues include healthcare; youth concerns, such as lack of youth activities; lack of family values; drought and climate change; economic issues; immigration reform; cost of living; spouse and child abuse; family turmoil resulting from a lack of vision and hope; individualism; aging population; lack of involvement in church and community; and fear of talking to others about faith.

"The Gospel message has to resonate with all this, within this reality in a way that people hear it so that transformation takes place," Villaronga said.

"Go and Make Disciples" offers various strategies. Villaronga asked each group to choose one of the document's goals and suggest ways to implement that goal.

Every group chose goal No. 1, about creating enthusiasm for the faith.

"What I like about this plan is that it allows you to flesh out what you're going to do," Villaronga said. "Look at this plan and see what you're doing; you're probably doing a lot. Now look at what you're not doing, so you can fill in the gaps."

## WANT MORE INFO?

Documents on evangelization, go to [www.usccb.org/evangelization](http://www.usccb.org/evangelization) and click on "Documents" to find:

— Pope Paul VI's apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Nuntiandi" ("On Evangelization in the Modern World")

— "Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States"

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# Nun takes to track for charity race

RACE, from page 1

as pastoral associate.

Father Carmen Malacari, pastor, opted out of driving in the race but attended to cheer on Sister Pepitone.

"I don't have the guts for this," he said with a laugh.

But Sister Pepitone was up for the challenge.

"I wanted the Catholic Church to be represented," she said. "These other churches need to know we exist."

Sister Pepitone sold the most advance tickets — 208 in all — earning her the starting place from the pole position in both the main race and the inaugural "powder puff" (all-female) race, which she won.

"For a first-time racer, she did awesome," said Gary Peterson, parishioner of Holy Spirit Church and member of Knights of Columbus Council 10389. "She wasn't afraid of the turns."

But that's not to say that fear wasn't a factor.

"It was scary," said Sister Pepitone.

"Here you are driving and the mud is flicking at you, and it feels like when

"You're sliding and slipping, and you know that if you're not careful and you lose control, you can crash and get hurt."

— Mercy Sister Patricia Ann Pepitone

you make the turns on the bend that you're sliding on ice. You're sliding and slipping, and you know that if you're not careful and you lose control, you can crash and get hurt," she said.

"My instinct was I wanted to win, but I didn't want an accident," she added.

Parishioners of Holy Spirit Church came out in droves to show their support.

"She's the main attraction," said Peterson.

"She's part of our church family," said Bob Ladousier, parishioner and fellow Knight.

Sister Pepitone was very appreciative of that support, especially for East Lincoln Christian Ministry. The event raised \$7,810 for the organization.

"Holy Spirit Church is very supportive when it comes to needs of the people in the town," she said. "They are very supportive in helping the poor and the homeless."

But that's not to say she won't have to put up with her fair share of grief back at the church.

"The parish is teasing me," she said. "They're calling me 'the flying nun.'"

When asked if she'll still be allowed to drive the church van, Father Malacari replied, "Absolutely."

And, when asked if she'll participate again next year, Sister Pepitone said, "I have to. I have to defend my title."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Mercy Sister Patricia Ann Pepitone (in the car at right), pastoral associate at Holy Spirit Church in Denver, races during the "Clash of the Clergy" competition at East Lincoln Speedway Aug. 23.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Helmet in hand, Mercy Sister Patricia Ann Pepitone accepts an award after her "Clash of the Clergy" race at East Lincoln Speedway Aug. 23.

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# Following Christ leads to grace-filled life, says revivalist

REVIVAL, from page 1

Father Fischer was the featured revivalist for the annual Revival of the Spirit, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry.

"The purpose and intent of the Revival of the Spirit is to bring together people from all over the diocese for a 'revival experience' strongly rooted in the heritage and culture of the black church," said Sandy Murdock, African American Affairs Ministry director.

"It is a spirit-filled time to renew one's faith and awaken one's mind and soul to the awesome glory of the love of Jesus Christ," she said. "It is filled with preaching, singing, rejoicing, ecumenism, unity in spirit and witnessing many of our blessings."

This year's event was a "roaming revival" held at three different locations Aug. 21-24 — two nights at St. Mary Church in Greensboro, one night at St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain and two Sunday Masses at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

As the revival has been traditionally held in Charlotte, this year's roaming revival was to allow more people to

attend from around the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We reached folk who were not Catholic, but had an interest in being a part of a Catholic revival," said Angella Brown, African American Affairs Ministry board member and parishioner of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem.

"This year we were able to reach more people in our diocese than ever before. There was more participation from those with physical disabilities, limited transportation and those outside of the Catholic Church," said Catherine Gomez, board member and parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church.

### Following in faith

Father Fischer, sacramental minister at St. Peter Claver Church in Lexington and chaplain of Lexington Catholic High School, uses storytelling, humor, song, rap and art in his preaching and evangelization workshops throughout the country.

Topics of his talks during the Revival of the Spirit included the healing power of the Eucharist, the beatitudes, sowing seeds for God and discipleship.

To be disciples of God, Catholics must be obedient — from the Latin "to listen," he said — and show determination.

Nature is an example of the kind of determination needed by Catholics, he said.

"All of nature reminds us to be determined, because nature always does what it needs to do," said Father Fischer during his talk at St. Helen Mission Aug. 23. "Nature and creation speaks volumes about how we are called to be who we are."

And so does God, he said.

"To be fully alive is to recognize we are born in his image and likeness," he said. "We are a gift, a child of God, whose destinies unfold every day. God is at work and speaking to us every day."

For those who might wonder if God loves them with all their faults, Father Fischer said not to worry.

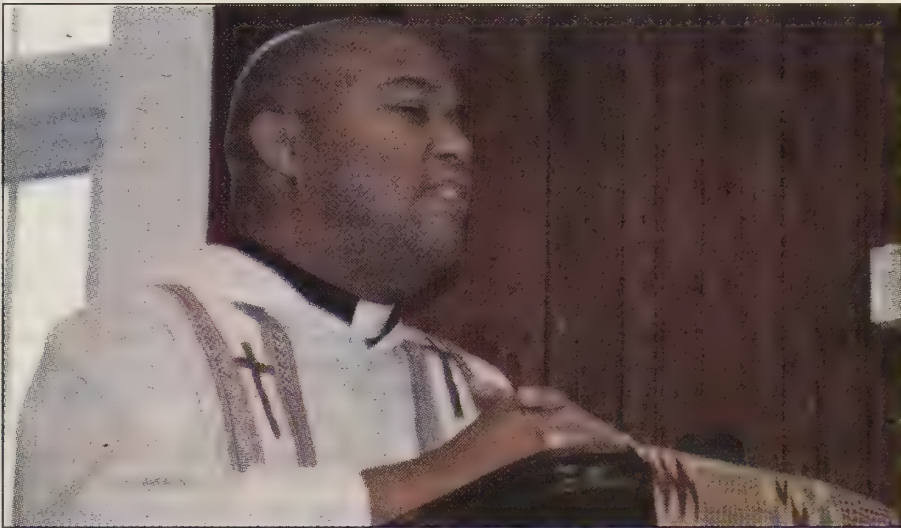
"Does God accept us? No matter what we experience or do, God looks at us through the eyes of his Son ... he looks at us from the viewpoint of Christ on the cross," he said.

"Jesus didn't die for angels or saints. He died for us," said Father Fischer. "That's how loved you are."



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: A choir sings during the Revival of the Spirit at St. Helen Church in Spencer Mountain Aug. 23. Below: Father Norman Fischer sings during his presentation at St. Helen Church.



But Catholics have choices to make in their daily lives, he said.

"A lot of times, we forget how powerful we are," said Father Fischer. "We can bring peace or violence, reach out a hand or shove someone down, bless someone or curse someone."

"God wants to live in us, but often we don't realize it," he said. "We're stuck in the past ... we're stuck in the funk of dysfunction. We have to let go of the funk. We can choose to live right here, right now, or live in the past."

That is the power of choice, he said.

"Every day we can choose to listen and speak to God. He wants us to know we can choose to live in the blessedness of who and what we are," said Father Fischer.

Catholics need to use their faith imaginations and spend time with Jesus, he said.

"With Jesus, there is more grace, hope and opportunity," said Father

Fischer. "We can be poor as a church mouse, but rich in the Spirit, if we take up our cross and follow Jesus."

If we follow our Lord, he will show us the right way, said Father Fischer.

"We all get lost, but God wants to guide us if we listen to him," he said. "Do we let God guide and direct us? It's an amazing ride when God is the guide."

### WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, call (704) 370-3267 or go online to [www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html).

### WANT MORE PHOTOS?

More photos of the 2008 Revival of the Spirit are available online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Priest's stories treat horrors with heartbreaking normalcy

(CNS) — Father Uwem Akpan, a Nigerian Jesuit, writes of religious intolerance and ethnic conflict, and of unspeakable deprivation, with a preternatural calm — as if one who has really seen it doesn't need to wave his arms wildly or shout about it.

Father Akpan's communities are roiling with hideous enmities, with Muslim, Christian, pagan, Tutsi and Hutu neighbors and even families pitted against one another. Yet there is no judgment in his voice.

Considering the atrocities and casualties that drive the narratives of his collected short stories in "Say You're One of Them," this is an admirable, even remarkable feat.

Bigotry, violence, hunger, betrayal and abandonment settle into his stories with a heartbreaking normalcy. Children navigate through unimaginable horrors without stopping to question why such things are happening.

They are too busy dealing with reality to quarrel with their fate.

Moments of powerful and startling beauty do emerge — but they are few. In "My Parents' Bedroom," a young girl says of her mother that "the sequins on her dress glitter in the candlelight as if her heart were on fire."

In "What Language Is That?" there is even a sly and sweet rewriting of the rules when two young friends, separated by religious intolerance, find a way to communicate. Much of the dialogue in Father Akpan's stories presents a challenge. In "Fattening for Gabon" and "Luxurious Hearses," particularly, the unfamiliar language may hold a reader at bay. Unfamiliar words pour from his characters.

In exchange for dialectic authenticity, readers may have to work harder than usual to keep up. There is almost an Old Testament feel to the violence of the stories. While reading, I was reminded of a quote from the writings of the Rev. William Sloane Coffin:

"Almost every square inch of the earth's surface is soaked with the tears and blood of the innocent, and it's not God's doing. It's our doing. ... When they see the innocent suffering, every time they lift their eyes to heaven and say, 'God, how could you let this happen?'"

"It's well to remember that exactly at that moment God is asking exactly the same question of us: 'How could you let this happen?'"

Father Akpan doesn't overtly pose this question. He doesn't have to. It is there, lurking in each page of every one of his painful stories.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 14, 2008

Sept. 14, *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

*Cycle A Readings:*

- 1) Numbers 21:4b-9  
Psalm 78: 1bc-2, 34-38
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11  
Gospel: John 3:13-17

## Admitting sins, faults leads to God's grace

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Thirty-five years ago, Sister Beth responded to her religious community's call to go "live on the margins," as she described it, with the Appalachian poor in southwestern Virginia.

Since then, she has thrived in ministry there, gaining a reputation among the struggling people of the region as a tough social justice advocate and gentle, compassionate counselor.

Although her ministry has addressed a wide range of concerns, her greatest contributions have been in treating victims of substance abuse and establishing an addiction education center.

Sister Beth has a great gift for working with victims of addiction. But that gift came not through her education or training. Nor did it come through her religious vows.

It came when she humbled herself,

"becoming obedient to God to the point of death," a real experience parallel to the example in Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Here's how it happened: When she moved to Appalachia, Sister Beth had already been a nun for more than a decade, serving as a teacher and administrator in a Connecticut Catholic high school. When she arrived she was excited, inspired and committed.

She also was an alcoholic.

She hid the fact for the first few years, but it came out when she was arrested for DUI and tossed in jail. "That was when I got on my knees and admitted total powerlessness," she said.

Just as in the passage from Numbers where the Israelites had to face their sinfulness, this was a moment of self-recognition for Sister Beth, a necessary one that would raise her to new life through reliance on God.

"What a place I had come to. I thought I was nothing," she remembered. "But after these many years and what I have experienced here, I've learned that what I thought was the worst thing that ever happened to me turned out to be my greatest gift."

Today's Gospel explains, "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Sister Beth's experience shows how God deals with us and our poor choices if we humble ourselves, admit powerlessness and open our lives to his mercy and strength.

## Florida Priest to Host

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## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 7-13

Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20; Monday (The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; Tuesday (St. Peter Claver), 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Luke 6:12-19; Wednesday, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26; Thursday, 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13, Luke 6:27-38; Friday (Most Holy Name of Mary), 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 6:39-42; Saturday (St. John Chrysostom), 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Luke 6:43-49.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 14-20

Sunday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross), Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; Monday (Our Lady of Sorrows), 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, John 19:25-27; Tuesday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian), 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; Wednesday (St. Robert Bellarmine), 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 7:31-35; Thursday, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; Friday (St. Januarius), 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; Saturday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15.

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**The Foundation**  
of the  
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## Italian priest scraps plan for online beauty pageant for nuns

*Contest called off due to criticism from  
church leaders, confusion about intentions*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — An Italian priest has scrapped his plan to stage an online beauty pageant for nuns after the idea drew criticism from church leaders.

Passionist Father Antonio Rungi canceled the Miss Sister Italy contest and closed his blog Aug. 26 after superiors of his order intervened, informed sources said.

Father Rungi said he was calling off the pageant because it had caused widespread confusion.

He said some media had deliberately misrepresented his initiative.

A few days earlier, the priest had announced on his blog that he would host an online contest to determine "the most beautiful sister in Italy."

He made it clear that this pageant would be highlighting nuns who were "beautiful in spirit," by publicizing their lives and work.

But he said it would also serve to let people know that many of today's sisters were physically beautiful.

In contrast to stereotypes, he said, modern nuns are not unattractive and sad

women who have been "disappointed by life and unfulfilled in marriage." He invited applicants between the ages of 18 and 40 to send photos that could demonstrate their beauty "on an aesthetic and spiritual level."

The winner of the contest, he said, would be chosen by visitors to his Web site.

As publicity about the contest grew, Father Rungi was forced to explain, among other things, that the sisters would not be parading in bathing suits and that the pageant was not a parallel to the Miss Italy contest, which was being staged at the same time.

Among those criticizing the idea was Alberto Giannino, president of an Italian association of Catholic teachers, who said the pageant belittled the real mission of sisters and held the church up to ridicule.

Father Rungi said he was shutting down the contest and his blog in order to protect himself and the sisters from further misunderstanding. He said it was a shame that he had to cancel the pageant, because he had already received a great number of applicants.

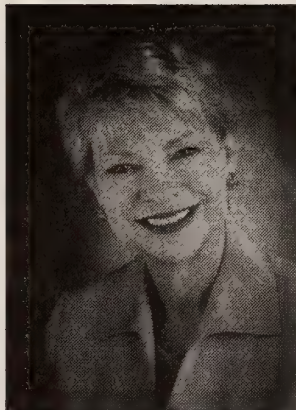
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Room At The Inn is a non-profit maternity and after-care program serving women and their children in Charlotte and the surrounding areas since 1994.

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320; 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org)



## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

*For the month of September, here are some historical facts about Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.*



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Pictured is the original Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, which was dedicated in November 1882.

### Significant Dates

- 1838: Richard and Eliza Roueche arrived at Mansion House Hotel in Salisbury, where they resided for two years. Richard Roueche was the only Catholic in Salisbury at the time, although his wife would later convert. The same year, Father T.J. Cronin celebrated Mass at the hotel while visiting the Roueches. This was the first time Mass was celebrated in Salisbury.
- July 5, 1846: Frances Christine Fisher was born in Salisbury. She converted to Catholicism, became a well-known author and was a benefactor of the church in Salisbury. She was the principal donor for the construction of the first Sacred Heart Church, and donated the lot on which it stood.
- Nov. 19, 1882: Bishop Henry Northrop, vicar apostolic of North Carolina, dedicated Sacred Heart Church.
- 1892: Sacred Heart Church received its first resident pastor, Benedictine Father Joseph Mueller.
- 1910: Sacred Heart Convent is built for the Sisters of Mercy and they take over operation of Sacred Heart School. (A Catholic school for children in Salisbury periodically existed from the 1880s.)
- June 11, 1933: In Sacred Heart Church, Bishop William Hafey ordained John Roueche, Richard and Eliza Roueche's grandson. This was the first ordination in Salisbury, and Father (later-MSgr.) Roueche was the first Salisbury native to be ordained.
- Nov. 3, 1940: Bishop Eugene McGuinness dedicated the current Sacred Heart Church.
- 1965: A new Sacred Heart School was constructed and opened.
- Sept. 1, 2007: Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the parish cemetery.
- June 29, 2008: Bishop Jugis blessed the groundbreaking for the future Sacred Heart Church.

### Historic Facts

- Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury is the eighth oldest church in the diocese.
- In 1941, Father Cletus Helfrich became the first diocesan priest of Raleigh to serve Sacred Heart Church. He remained pastor of the parish for 29 years.
- Our Lady of Victories Mission was established in Salisbury to serve African-American Catholics in 1942. It merged with Sacred Heart Church in December 1969.
- When the second Sacred Heart Church was under construction in 1940, a donation of \$5,000 was accepted under the condition that the name of the church be changed. However, influenced by urgent pleas from the parishioners, the bishop kept the church under the patronage of the Sacred Heart and used the money elsewhere. Had the name change occurred, Catholics in Salisbury would now attend St. Madeline Sophie Church.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

The Catholic News & Herald is back on its regular, weekly publishing schedule. If you have a local story to share; know of people who are living the tenets of their faith; or have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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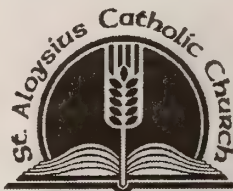
You may also want to visit Rachel's Vineyard Web site at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).



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# Clergy camaraderie



COURTESY PHOTO

Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte gather at Bishop Peter J. Jugis' residence in Charlotte for the annual priest and seminarian cookout Aug. 4. The event began in 2005, when the diocesan Presbyteral Council suggested a get-together to allow priests and seminarians to get to know each other. The men enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by Knights of Columbus from St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

# Day of discernment



COURTESY PHOTO

Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, chats with young men during the Diocese of Charlotte's annual vocations day of discernment, held at St. Michael Church in Gastonia Aug. 6.

Nearly 40 college, high school and middle school students gathered with Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and 10 priests and 14 seminarians of the diocese for the event, which provided a chance for the students to discern what God is asking of their lives and to explore their possible callings to the priesthood.

The day included Mass, prayer, eucharistic adoration, sports and a panel discussion with priests and seminarians about life in the priesthood and seminary.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about vocations to the priesthood, contact Father Christopher Gober, diocesan vocations director, at (704) 370-3353.

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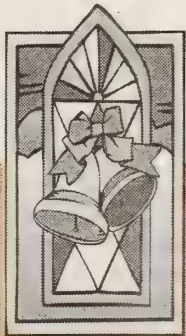
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Please note: To receive an invitation, you must call your parish office to register.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Not so pro-choice when it deals with freedom of conscience

*Being forced to do something against conscience is anti-choice*

A review of one recent week's news found these headlines:

"Catholic Bishops Support Choice."

"Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice Oppose Choice."

Wait a minute! Are we still in the United States? Have we slept through a long Rip Van Winkle out-of-touch experience?

Neither.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops spoke in favor of proposed federal regulations that would protect the choice of health care workers not to participate in abortion and sterilization procedures.

Planned Parenthood and NARAL denounced those same proposals, saying there should be no choice to opt out of such procedures.

The 42-page rule would enforce conscience protections in three separate federal laws, the earliest of which dates to the 1970s.

"These regulations are implementing long-standing laws on the books," said Deirdre McQuade, an assistant director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities. "They're not expanding those laws, they're not changing them, they're not introducing new material except to raise awareness about their existence."

The proposed rules, which apply to institutions receiving government money, would require as many as 584,000 employers ranging from major hospitals to doctors' offices and nursing homes to certify that they are complying with several existing federal laws that protect the conscience rights of health care workers.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said that health care professionals should not face retaliation from employers or from medical organizations because they object to abortion.

"Freedom of conscience is not to be surrendered upon issuance of a medical degree," said Leavitt. "This nation was built on a foundation of free speech. The first principle of free speech is protected conscience."

Groups that support keeping abortion legal were quick to raise the specter of conscience protection decreasing the quality of health care.

"The Bush administration's proposed regulation poses a serious threat to women's health care by limiting the

## Consider This

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



rights of patients to receive complete and accurate health information and services," said Cecile Richards of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"Women's ability to manage their own health care is at risk of being compromised by politics and ideology," she said.

Let's accept as fact that the rights of patients would be limited. The result would be no more than inconvenience as the patient sought another physician whose views are in concert with hers.

But inconvenience resulting from limiting a right is a lesser evil than denial of a right of conscience.

It seems fairly clear that being forced to do something against conscience is a serious breach of freedom.

"Freedom of expression and action should not be surrendered upon the issuance of a health care degree," Leavitt continued. "Nothing in the new regulation in any way changes the patient's right to any legal procedure."

Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, called it "an attack on women's reproductive freedom."

Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood President and CEO Patricia McGeown said, "This administration believes that a woman's access to health services should be limited by anyone's and everyone's religious or moral beliefs. It's appalling how little regard the administration has for a woman's conscience and moral conviction."

What's more appalling are health care professionals being forced to act against their consciences.

"Resisting these very basic common-sense-affirming regulations just shows how extreme the pro-abortion lobby has become," said McQuade. "You'd think if they are pro-choice they are also pro-choice in the choice of a doctor or nurse to be involved."

## Finding your vocation

*If God gives you a specialty, he means for you to use it*

Michael Phelps was born to swim. With long arms, powerful legs and giant feet, God made him to swim.

It is a joy to watch him. It is his vocation. If he did not swim, he would not be happy. He would not be using his gifts.

But even Michael Phelps had to respond to God's call. It did not just happen. It was work.

On the surface, Phelps has every excuse for failure. He has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, a learning disability. He was a fidgety kid who could not concentrate.

His mother was a single parent, trying to raise three children with little money or help.

People would have understood if Michael had just drifted, but he didn't. With the help of his mother, his coaches, his teachers, Phelps discovered his calling. He found out that his fidgety energy and gangly limbs and big feet were made for the pool.

So he swam. God made him to be the greatest swimmer ever, and his swimming gives glory to God.

I just love to see people find their callings. Be it humble or famous, it is their path to happiness because it is their call.

People often come to me because they are searching for their call. Mostly they are young. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes they are completely lost.

Most often they are just drifting. They are not doing badly, but not really doing anything.

But God has a call for them. I tell them to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in the ordinary circumstances of life. I suggest that they ask themselves some simple questions.

First, what gifts and endowments did God give me? Did he give me big feet or a musical ear or the gift of words? Do I have a talent for relating to people?

If God gives you something, he means for you to use it. If, like Michael Phelps, you have long arms and size 14 feet, maybe God wants you to praise him by swimming.

If, like Stephen Hawking, God gives you a brilliant mind trapped in a paralyzed body, maybe God wants you to praise him by becoming

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



a physics professor.

Second, what responsibilities do I have?

If you are a parent or spouse, you have responsibilities to your family. If you are single, you have responsibilities to society. None of us is entirely free. We decide within a context.

Third, where have I been planted? I think we are meant to bloom where we are.

There is an old saying that sums it up well:

"Do all you can,  
"With what you have,  
"In the time you have,  
"In the place you are."

No one is useless. No life is unwanted.

Look at Lopez Lomong, the Olympic track star who carried the USA flag into the stadium in Beijing. He was one of the "lost boys of the Sudan."

He was a war refugee without home or family. But he was not "lost" to God.

With the help of the church, Lomong came to America. He discovered that God made him to run. So he ran as a member of the U.S. Olympic team and became its flag bearer.

He gave hope to all the "lost boys" in the world.

Everyone, at every age, has a use to God. Young or old, sick or healthy, we each have a vocation. Our call may change as we grow older.

Even Michael Phelps will have to move from swimming one day.

But if we devote our lives to God's call at each stage, we will find our happiness. St. Augustine said, "In his will is our peace."

If God made you to swim, swim like Michael Phelps.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.



# Proud to be Catholic

*Despite media criticism, good work of church is quite astonishing*

The word “secular” means “not bound by religious restrictions.” In the world of the secular media, there is a constant effort to put down the Catholic Church for carrying forward the values that Christ preached, namely, the sacred character of the human person at every level of life and the sacred character of marriage and the family.

The secular world insists that there are no unbreakable principles, no moral absolutes. Every violation of God’s will can be rationalized, explained away, justified.

This attitude has been described time and again by Pope Benedict XVI as “relativism,” which is a fancy word for “everything goes.”

Jesus said, “I have come to do the will of the Father,” and to that end he surrendered in a spirit of truth and humility: “Not my will but thine be done.”

Life is a test. The reward is heaven. The stakes are high.

Why do so many newspapers belittle and exploit the church for its human weaknesses?

They believe that we hold others to the highest standard, but fail to be perfect ourselves. They enjoy putting down the church whenever the opportunity presents itself because they see us

as hypocrites.

But the truth is that the church defined itself as the sinful people of God. The good that we do in spite of the wounded souls among us, however, is quite astonishing.

Did you know that the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students every day at a savings of \$18 billion for American taxpayers? Our graduates go on to college and graduate studies at the rate of 92 percent.

The church has 230 colleges and universities in the United States with an enrollment of 700,000 students. It also has a nonprofit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people, not just Catholics, in the United States today.

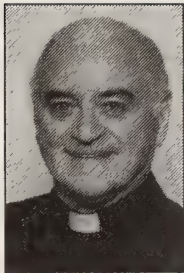
And yet the press continually focuses on the negative, denigrating the Catholic Church whenever it can. United with other religious bodies, the church is a moral force that stands against the immorality that is so widespread in the world today.

Premarital sex is an epidemic, unwanted pregnancies and abortions abound, the divorce rate is over 50 percent, and broken homes and broken dreams flood society.

The church stands against this tide

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



of failure, upholding marriage and the family at every turn. A small number of wayward priests who have been weeded out systematically have poisoned the image of the church and given cause for great scandal.

Bleeding from these self-inflicted wounds, the church is in agony but not without hope or determination to right the wrongs of the past.

More people attend Catholic Mass every Sunday to receive solace, comfort from their faith than all those who attend baseball, football, basketball, tennis and racing events for an entire year.

Catholics are nourished by the Eucharist and love their church in spite of the outside climate of hostility.

Jesus predicted that the secular world would hate the church, just as it hated him.

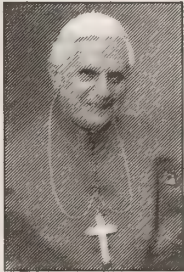
So remember: The servant is not greater than the master. Walk tall with your head high. Be a proud member of the most important nongovernmental organization in America. Speak up for your faith with pride and reverence.

Be proud that you are a Catholic.

## Like St. Paul, Christians must encounter Christ, pope says

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS)—While St. Paul had a dramatic personal experience of the risen Christ and received a mission directly from him, he still had to be baptized and become part of the church community, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“There is only one proclamation of the risen Lord because Christ is only one,” the pope said Sept. 3 at his weekly general audience.

Returning from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo just for the duration of the audience, the pope continued his series of audience talks about St. Paul as part of the year dedicated to the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle’s birth.

“The Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul both say the risen Lord spoke to him, called him to the apostolate, made him a true apostle — a witness of the resurrection — with a specific mission to proclaim the Gospel to the pagans,” Pope Benedict said.

But St. Paul still “had to enter into the communion of the church, he had to be baptized, he had to live in communion with the other apostles,” he said.

*Here is the text of the pope’s remarks in English.*

Today’s catechesis focuses on St. Paul’s conversion.

In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke recounts for us the dramatic episode on the road to Damascus, which transformed Paul from a fierce persecutor of the church into a zealous evangelizer.

In his own letters, Paul describes his experience not so much in terms of a conversion, but as a call to apostleship and a commission to preach the Gospel. In the first instance, this was an encounter not with concepts or ideas but with the person of Jesus himself.

In fact, Paul met not only the historical Jesus of the past, but the living Christ who revealed himself as the one Savior and Lord.

Similarly, the ultimate source of our own conversion lies neither in esoteric philosophical theories nor abstract moral codes, but in Christ and his Gospel. He alone defines our identity as Christians, since in him we discover the ultimate meaning of our lives.

Paul, because Christ had made him his own (cf. Phil 3:12), could not help but preach the Good News he had received (cf. 1 Cor 9:16). So it is with us.

Transfixed by the greatness of our Savior, we — like St. Paul — cannot help but speak of him to others. May we always do so with joyful conviction.

# The price of life

*Physician-assisted suicide devalues lives of suffering people*

Imagine if your state of residence put a price tag on your life.

Though it sounds like something out of “The Twilight Zone,” that’s exactly what happened to Randy Stroup and Barbara Wagner, both cancer patients residing in Oregon, home of the nation’s only taxpayer-funded, doctor-assisted suicide option for the terminally ill.

Uninsured and battling prostate cancer, Stroup applied to his state-sponsored health insurance plan to fund his chemotherapy. He was shocked to receive a letter saying they would not cover his chemotherapy drug, but would cover the cost of physician-assisted suicide.

“It dropped my chin to the floor,” said Stroup. “[How could they] not pay for medication that would help my life, and yet offer to pay to end my life?”

The same offer to cover assisted suicide instead of treatment was made to Wagner, who is battling lung cancer. Their stories compel us to consider the effects of legislation like this, where it may lead us and how we should react.

Physician-assisted suicide laws contribute to the overall devaluing of human life. Rather than recognizing the inestimable worth of every individual,

they promote the erroneous idea that life is a commodity up for cost analysis by the state.

These laws perpetuate the idea that instead of protecting our citizens’ right to life, government should encourage and facilitate the eradication of those people deemed a financial burden to society.

These stories reveal a zero sum mentality of rationing resources, instead of an attitude of abundance and generosity for our suffering brothers and sisters.

With the exception of Oregon, all other attempts to legalize assisted suicide in states have failed, but efforts continue and may eventually succeed. Washington state voters will likely face such a ballot initiative this fall.

If other states follow Oregon’s example, the “slippery slope” may expand our notion of who is falsely considered a burden to society.

The Swiss group Exit International recently agreed on a resolution to vote in 2009 on expanding its criteria for assisted suicides from “terminally ill” to include those “being tired of old-age.” As bioethicist Wesley J. Smith has observed: “Once one accepts the premise that suicide is an acceptable answer to the problems of human suffering and ennui, there are no

## Life Issues Forum

MARY J. MCCLUSKY  
GUEST COLUMNIST



boundaries that will hold for long.”

In 2001, for example, soon after the Netherlands legalized euthanasia, the Dutch Minister of Health suggested suicide pills for elderly persons who are tired of living.

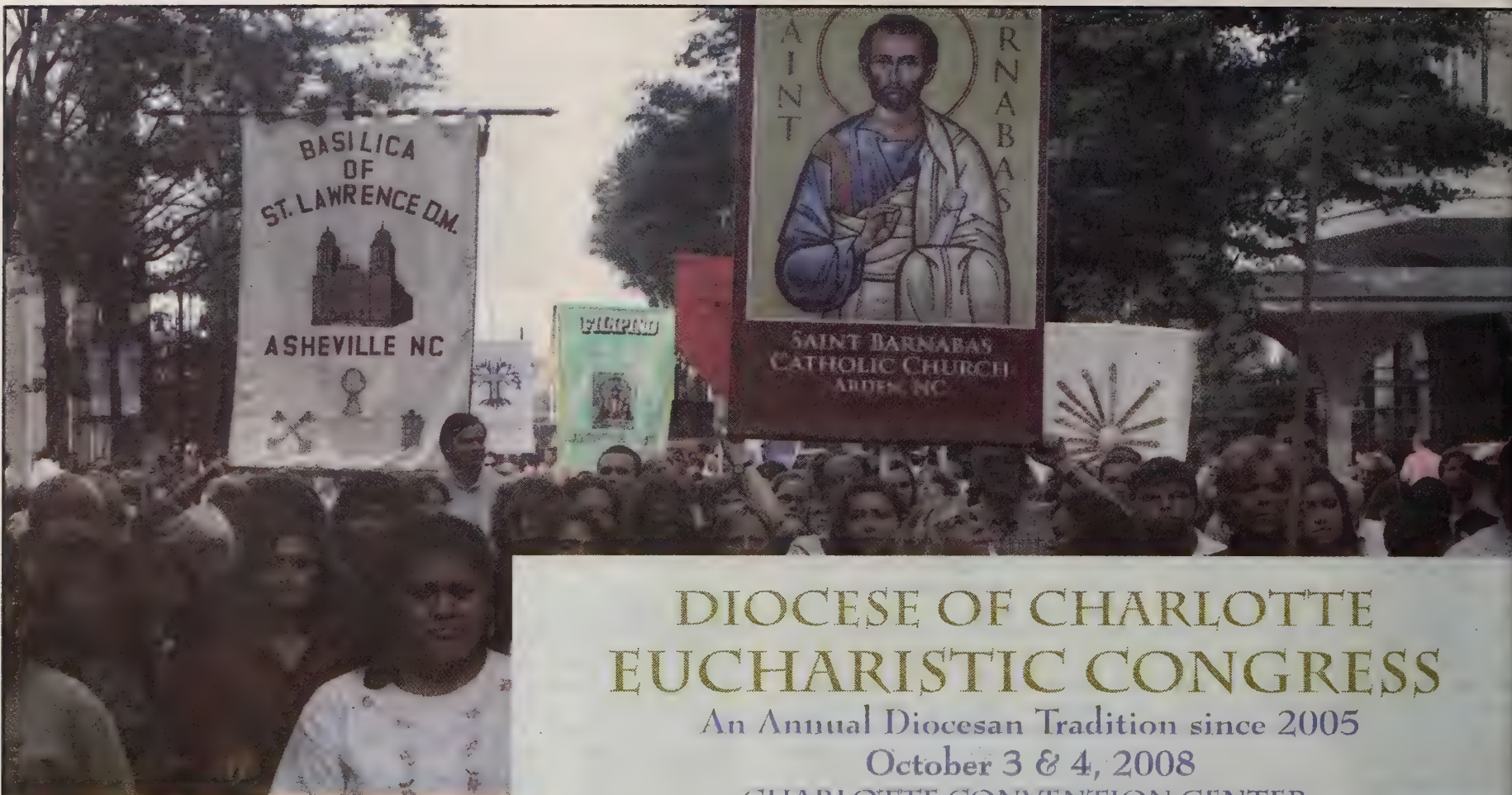
We must resist the spread of legalizing assisted suicide. Stroup fought back and won coverage for his chemotherapy, and a pharmaceutical company will donate Wagner’s needed drugs, so we can see that there is hope in the fight.

Learn what the Catholic Church teaches on end of life issues. Pray for increased respect for all human life. Stay alert for legislative efforts in your own state that threaten those who are elderly, sick or dying.

We all are obligated to continue to spread the gospel of life and to teach that every life, regardless of age or condition of dependency, is a priceless gift.

*McClusky is special projects coordinator at the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.*





## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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### FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Greeting - Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Concert of Sacred Music for the Liturgical Season featuring a diocesan choir with 120 voices of praise
- Keynote Speaker - His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley, D.D., Ph.D.
- Catholic Shops



### SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour - Homilist Archbishop John F. Donoghue
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

### GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



**Tarek Saab** — "Faith Gut Check" — Tarek rose to fame as a contestant on the popular TV show "The Apprentice." A dynamic speaker, Tarek focuses on chastity, modesty, business ethics, pornography, abortion and prayer.



**Fr. Richard Ho Lung** — "Servant of the Poor" — Fr. Ho Lung is the founder of The Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to joyful service of the poorest of the poor.



**Denis McNamara, M. Arch. H., Ph. D.** — "Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture" — Denis is an architectural historian who will show us how the role of sacred architecture affects our lives.



**Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.** — "Proclaiming Christ Through Our Reverence for the Human Person" — Sr. Terese is the Bioethics Chair of Pope John Paul the Great High School in Dumfries, Virginia.

### HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



**Roberto Ramirez**  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



**Hna. Bertha López Chávez**  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



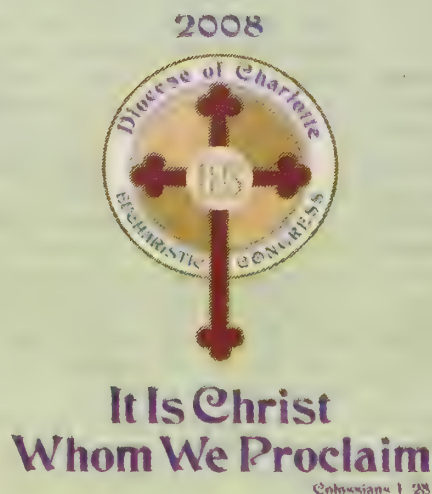
**Lupita Venegas**  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

## Perspectives

'Holy days of opportunity';  
Marian apparitions;  
exploring the Eucharist

| PAGES 14-15

VOLUME 17 N° 38

## Friars affiliations

Two couples from  
diocese recognized by  
Order of St. Augustine

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

**HAYWOOD COUNTY** — It doesn't matter if the Augustinian friars are just visiting or stationed here — they're family.

The Augustinian friars of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova recently recognized two couples who in a particular way over the years have made the friars part of their own families.

John and Therese Van Dyck of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley and Charles and Joan Surber of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville have been affiliated to the Order of St. Augustine.

"We were honored, but that

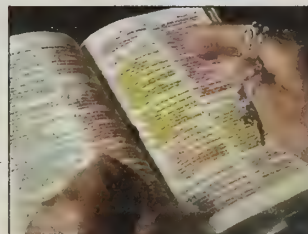
See OSA, page 7



CNS PHOTOS MICHAEL ALEXANDER

## BACK TO THE BIBLE

Margaret Mashini reads the Bible in St. Michael the Archangel Church in Woodstock, Ga., Aug. 22. Pope Benedict XVI will host a Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October to help draw more Catholics to read the Bible.



## Leading more people to read the Bible is challenge for Pope Benedict

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of  
an ongoing series on the Bible.*

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — When Pope Benedict XVI chose the Bible as the topic for this fall's Synod of Bishops, he turned the church's attention to an area he has long considered crucial and in need of revitalization.

The pope's concern touches several levels. For one thing, despite an upsurge in biblical interest after the Second Vatican Council, only a minority of Catholics read the Bible regularly.

See CHALLENGE, page 9

## Revered, sacred, ancient text

Biblical scholars provide  
pope with research,  
advice on Scriptures

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of  
an ongoing series on the Bible.*

**VATICAN CITY** — Just as a president turns to his economic or military advisers for expert opinions on issues in those areas, the pope has his own team of biblical scholars for research and advice about the Scriptures.

See FOOD, page 5

See BIBLE, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Kermes packs bags for the Food Closet ministry at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville Aug. 9. Kermes and his wife Mitzie took over the Food Closet after long-time volunteers Ken and Connie Jewell retired in August.

## Filling the need

Parish Food Closet thrives under  
couple's direction

After 10 years of service,  
they're passing the torch

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

**STATESVILLE** — Ken and Connie Jewell weren't sure how long they would volunteer as coordinators of the Food Closet ministry at their parish, St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville.

And they didn't know what to expect when they took on the responsibility back in 1998.

"At first we said we would stay on for a year and see how it worked out," said Connie Jewell.

"A year spread to five years and then when Father Kurt came, he was so easy to

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| PAGE 4

Bringing the Mass home  
Local ministry provides  
DVDs of Mass to  
homebound

| PAGE 11

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FIGHTING TO THE LAST BREATH



CNS PHOTO BY MIKE PENNEY

Patricia and John Peyton surf the Internet at their home in Seattle July 19. John, 64, has become paralyzed by an unusually aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He has spent time in his final months lobbying against Washington state's assisted suicide initiative. Peyton said society needs to extend true compassion to the dying.

## Man nearing death opposes state's assisted suicide initiative

SEATTLE (CNS) — John Peyton does not have long to live. Earlier this summer, his doctor gave him three to six months.

The 64-year-old retiree has an aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Since last November, he has gone from healthy and active to completely paralyzed, struggling to breathe with a ventilator. The disease has made him totally dependent on his wife of 40 years, Patricia.

Peyton's once-strong voice is fading fast; soon it will go altogether. But while he still has it, Peyton, a Catholic, is using it to proclaim the intrinsic value and sanctity of every human life at every stage, in every condition.

He has spent his final months opposing Initiative 1000, the Death With Dignity Act, which will be on the Nov. 4 ballot in Washington state. If passed, it would legalize physician-assisted suicide.

"This Initiative 1000 is just the first step in putting into law the lie that there is such a thing as a life not worth living," he said, explaining how he fears where the provision will lead his home state if voters approve it.

Peyton is a veteran of the pro-life cause, tracing his involvement to the early 1970s when Washington state legalized abortion before Roe v. Wade made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. The issue spurred the Peytons to get involved with Birthright International, an organization that aids women in crisis pregnancies.

Peyton joined the speakers bureau of Human Life of Washington and began

giving talks on pro-life issues at schools, churches and club meetings. He also served as the Knights of Columbus' state pro-life chairman.

Being what some would consider a perfect candidate for physician-assisted suicide hasn't changed Peyton's stand on the issue. In fact, it has strengthened it.

Peyton acknowledged that he is "exceedingly fortunate" to have the loving support of his family, and his friends and neighbors and his home parish, St. Paul Church in Seattle. For those suffering with terminal illnesses who are not so fortunate, rather than tempting them to commit suicide, Peyton would rather see society extend true compassion.

"So much can be done to help people who are helpless," he said. "We could, as a society, be far more compassionate. We've become so selfish. ... You can't legislate compassionate care, but that's what's going to be needed."

The Peytons have been able to deal with John's impending death largely because of their Catholic faith, which he called "the fundamental and essential part of our lives."

But it does not mean they have not had their share of tears in recent months.

"Well, I'm disappointed, there's no denying that," said Peyton. "But I don't feel any anger or bitterness. I don't feel cheated of anything."

After more than 30 years of speaking about life issues, "I've just about said the last pro-life thing that I'm going to be able to say," he gasped at the end of a long interview. A single tear ran down his cheek, but his eyes burned with urgency and intensity. "It's up to you guys now. Take it up. May God go with you."

## Archdiocese reiterates that Emmitsburg visions 'not supernatural'

BALTIMORE (CNS)—Responding to an apocalyptic posting to a Web site by Gianna Talone-Sullivan claiming that the Blessed Virgin Mary told her of an impending worldwide disaster, the Archdiocese of Baltimore has reaffirmed its position that Talone-Sullivan's alleged visions "are not supernatural in origin."

Talone-Sullivan, a pharmacologist, claimed to have received messages from Mary during Thursday evening prayer services at St. Joseph Church in Emmitsburg from 1993 until 2000, when the archdiocese banned them.

Talone-Sullivan claimed that Mary remained "publicly silent" for two years following the end of the prayer services, but continued to appear and speak with her privately.

Talone-Sullivan began disseminating monthly "public messages to the world," allegedly from Mary, via the Internet on Aug. 5, 2002.

The archdiocese investigated the Emmitsburg visions and in 2003 an "extensive study by a commission comprised of experts in the field of theology and canon law" examined approximately 600 pages of testimony and interviewed Talone-Sullivan and others, according to the most recent archdiocesan statement, dated Aug. 29.

Following the commission study, Cardinal William H. Keeler, then-archbishop of Baltimore, issued a decree stating that the alleged visions were not supernatural. That decree was approved by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome, who is now Pope Benedict XVI.

The archdiocesan statement called it "regrettable that any confusion remains for Catholics in the archdiocese, who need only read the decree to understand the church's position on this matter."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, presents "Choosing Your Path: An Ignatian Retreat for Young Adults (age 18 to 40)" Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). Come and learn how the life of a 16th century saint has relevance for young adults facing a variety of changes and choices in the 21st century world. Mass will be celebrated at the close of the retreat. To register for this free event, e-mail [yamretreat@gmail.com](mailto:yamretreat@gmail.com). Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the church. For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning *Adult Spirituality Series* will be held once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan

Gardens Dr., beginning Sept. 22. The first talk is entitled, "Autumn Draws Us Inside: Celebrating your Heart and Soul." Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will take place at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead St., Monday evenings during September. The topic for Sept. 15 will be "The Art of Prayer" presented by Jesuit Father Vince Alagia. RSVP to [jennifer.eues@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.eues@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — *Be Strong: Exercises for Physical and Spiritual Strength*, a new women's ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., combines gentle yoga with prayer, Scripture and spiritual reflection for a unique 90-minute workout that strengthens body and soul. Tuesdays 7:30-9 p.m. or Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. Classes run Sept. 23-Nov. 13. No fee but registration required. Visit [www.bestrongministries.org](http://www.bestrongministries.org) or contact Lisa Tolido at (704) 737-3222.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel School celebrates 50 years. A picnic supper will be held after the 5 p.m. Mass at the St. Gabriel athletic fields. Bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs. RSVP to Sally McArdle at (704) 541-1756 or [mcardle@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mcardle@carolina.rr.com), or to Mary Ann Thomas at (704) 366-6985 or [ethomas4@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ethomas4@carolina.rr.com).

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Fall Festival will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Sept. 26-27, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. both days, with an

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official: Counseling, support key to helping terror victims

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations said greater efforts must be made to address the long-term spiritual and psychological effects of terrorism.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore told the secretary-general's symposium, "Supporting Victims of Terrorism," Sept. 9 that grief counseling and spiritual support were key to helping victims cope with their losses "but also lay the groundwork for preventing reprisals and continued violence."

He said programs that "provide restorative justice to the victims of terrorism help to alleviate the continuous cycles of violence, hatred and mistrust."

Archbishop Migliore praised the U.N. General Assembly's recent adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy but said "efforts must be made to ensure that those who are the victims of terrorist

activity are provided not only a voice but a helping hand."

"In the end, terrorist activity does nothing to promote authentic political or social aims, but only ensures the creation of more victims," the archbishop said.

"While we rightly condemn all acts of terrorism, care must be taken in order to give a voice to those whose voices have been wrongfully taken," he said.

Former Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt attended the conference and called for international status for victims of terrorism, with centralized data about victims provided on a U.N. Web site.

Betancourt, a former presidential candidate in Colombia, was freed by Colombian rebels in early July after more than six years.

The one-day seminar included testimony by victims of terrorism from nearly every continent.

Italian Feast Saturday 5-8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (336) 274-6520, or visit [www.olgchurch.org](http://www.olgchurch.org).

GREENSBORO — A Men's Evening of Reflection will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 1 from 6:30-9 p.m. The theme of the reflection will be the four objectives of the Catholic family. The event is free and open to all Catholic men. Pizza and refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by a talk from 7 to 9 p.m. in the church. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Landings, a program to help inactive and non-practicing Catholics come back to the church, will be starting at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd Ave. NE, Sept. 18 at 6:30 pm. The meetings will be held once a week for 10 weeks. There is no cost to attend. For more information, call the office at St. Aloysius Church at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail Bonnie Tamrack at [tamrack@charter.net](mailto:tamrack@charter.net).

HICKORY — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya at Steel Creek Park and Campgrounds, 7081 NC Hwy. 181, Sept. 27. The Grand Ultreya begins at 11:30 a.m., with Mass at 12 p.m. to be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis. Bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink to share for lunch; hamburgers/hotdogs will be provided. Other activities include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks and hiking/nature trails for children. The event ends at 3:30 pm. For more information or directions, contact Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Dr. Martha Shuping will deliver a pro-life message entitled "The Burden of Choice and the Steps to Healing" in the Parish Center of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., Sept.

20 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Shuping has been a champion for life in the Triad area as well as several foreign countries and the United Nations. Her talk will cover various pro-life topics and will encourage attendance at the upcoming "40 Days for Life." There is no charge to attend this event. For more information, contact Donna at (336) 940-2558.

KERNERSVILLE — Dr. Martha Shuping will deliver a pro-life message entitled "The Burden of Choice and the Steps to Healing" in Salesian Hall at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Shuping has been a champion for life in the Triad area as well as several foreign countries and the United Nations. Her talk inspires both hope as well as healing. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Geri Breeding at (336) 644-8883.

WINSTON-SALEM — The national "40 Days for Life" campaign will be held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or go online to [www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem](http://www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmooore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmooore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope hopes trip to France encourages awareness of Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped his first trip to France as pope would encourage greater awareness of Mary as a beacon of hope for all people, especially the young.

The pope said he was traveling to France as a "messenger of peace and fraternity" and that he would offer a special prayer during his visit for the sick, the weak and the cause of peace in the world.

The pope made the remarks at the end of his weekly general audience Sept. 10, two days before leaving for a Sept. 12-15 visit to Paris and the Marian sanctuaries at Lourdes.

The pope noted that he was no stranger to France, having visited there many times as a cardinal. He praised the "solidity of its Christian faith and its high human and spiritual culture" and said he was sure he would be welcomed in the country's traditional spirit of tolerance.

In celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, the pope said he hoped to underline Mary's importance in the lives of all Christians today.

"May Mary be for all of you, especially for the young, the mother who is always available to meet the needs of

her children, a light of hope that brightens and guides your paths," he said.

During his visit, the pope was to hold meetings in Paris with French political leaders, including President Nicolas Sarkozy, and celebrate an outdoor Mass in one of the city's squares.

Vatican officials said one of the most important events on the papal schedule in Paris was his Sept. 12 address at the College des Bernardins, which was to be attended by academics and cultural leaders, Muslim representatives, and officials of the European Union and UNESCO.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the pope had spent considerable effort in personally preparing this speech, which was expected to focus on a major theme of his pontificate, the relationship between faith and modern culture.

At Lourdes, the pope was to join in several events of the jubilee pilgrimage, and Sept. 14 he was to celebrate Mass to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

On Sept. 15, the final day of the visit, he was to celebrate a Mass with the sick at Lourdes and administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick to 15 people.

# Remembering the fallen



CNS PHOTO BY JASON COHN, REUTERS

A rosary hangs from a large cross at the Flight 93 Temporary Memorial outside Shanksville, Pa., Sept. 11. Nearly 3,000 people perished in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pa., in the 2001 attacks.

# Church joins interfaith effort to change law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church has joined an interfaith effort to change U.S. immigration law.

To prepare for that effort in the next Congress, it is also joining the Tour of the Faithful, an educational effort during September and October to convince people of faith to support changes in U.S. immigration policy.

"We're in a dark period," said Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, during a Sept. 9 conference call to announce the 17-city Tour of the Faithful.

"Our current national immigration policy ... consists of work-site enforcement raids" that result in, among other things, "the dislocation of U.S. citizen children from their parents," he said. "As a nation — a nation of immigrants, I might add — we cannot accept the labor of immigrants while undermining their basic human dignity. At the same time, the issue of immigration reform is receiving little attention in the presidential race, and negative attention in the media."

The tour started Sept. 10 with an interfaith prayer vigil in Columbus, Ohio.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 13 (5 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Sept. 17 (6 p.m.)  
Pastor installation of Father Adrian Porras  
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

Sept. 18 (10 a.m.)  
Back-to-school Mass for Home School Association  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Sept. 19 (4 p.m.)  
Mass of rededication  
St. Bernadette Church, Linville



## Celebrating 'our liturgical heritage'



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, celebrates a solemn high Mass in the extraordinary form at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Aug. 15. Assisting as deacon is Father Robert Ferguson and as subdeacon is Father Christopher Davis.

## Solemn high Mass in extraordinary form celebrated for first time in diocese

**CLEMMONS** — A solemn high Mass in the extraordinary form was celebrated recently for the first time in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, celebrated the Mass at noon at Holy Family Church in Clemmons on the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15.

Assisting as deacon was Father Robert Ferguson, a member of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, and assisting as subdeacon was Father Christopher Davis, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro. Seminarians Noah Carter and Jason Christian were among the servers at the Mass, attended by approximately 250 people.

The Mass from the Roman Missal in use since 1970 remains the ordinary form of the Mass, while celebration of the Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal is the extraordinary form.

After Pope Benedict XVI eased restrictions on the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in July 2007, 14 priests of the Diocese of Charlotte attended training sessions to familiarize themselves with the background to celebrate the Mass in the extraordinary form.

In 2008, the priests began celebrating the low form of the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

In the low Mass, the celebrating priest is accompanied by two servers, with two lit candles placed on the altar. In the high Mass, the celebrating priest is accompanied by a deacon and subdeacon, both with specific functions and roles.

Other differentiating factors include six lit candles, incensing and chanting rather than spoken liturgy.

"This is our liturgical heritage," said Father Kowalski, who celebrates Mass in the extraordinary form at two Triad-area parishes — Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy and St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem.

"We are very blessed to have Bishop (Peter J.) Jugis' support and encouragement," said Father Kowalski. "We have over 2,000 years of history and our church is inclusive enough for the extraordinary form as well as the post-Vatican II 'Novus Ordo' (new form of the Mass)."

### Mass in the extraordinary form in the Diocese of Charlotte

**ANDREWS** — Holy Redeemer Church, Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.; second Saturdays at 4 p.m.

**ASHEBORO** — St. Joseph Church, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**CHARLOTTE** — St. Ann Church, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; first Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. (Sunday vigil)

**LINCOLNTON** — St. Dorothy Church, Thursdays at 12 p.m.

**MOUNT AIRY** — Holy Angels Church, Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

**WINSTON-SALEM** — St. Benedict the Moor Church, second/fourth Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

## Greeting the faithful



COURTESY PHOTO

Seminarians (from left) John Eckert, Paul McNulty and Paul Buchanan talk to parishioners following Mass at their parish, St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, Aug. 17. Capuchin Franciscan Father Remo DiSalvatore, pastor, blessed the three seminarians and the congregation sang a blessing song for them as they prepared to return to their seminaries.

## In the presence of Our Lady



COURTESY PHOTO

Priests and seminarians are pictured at the Good Jesus Church in Braga, Portugal, during an annual peace pilgrimage to Fatima. Pictured: (back row) Father John Putnam and Father Mark Purcell; (middle row) seminarians Brian Kaup, Steven Arena, Jonathon Baggett, Patrick McLaughlin and Paul Buchanan; and (front row) seminarian Alex Hernandez Dominguez.

## Annual pilgrimage brings priests, seminarians, laity to Fatima

**WINSTON-SALEM** — Priests, seminarians and laypersons from across the United States recently journeyed to Portugal as part of the Fatima peace pilgrimage.

Sponsored annually since 1984 by the Te Deum Foundation, the pilgrimage is designed to foster a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima's message for priests, seminarians and other religious.

"The message of Our Lady of Fatima is one of peace and conversion of heart, both of which are desperately needed in our world today," said Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"As followers of Christ, we must pray for peace and strive daily to put the great commandment into practice of loving God and neighbor," said Father Putnam, who served as spiritual director of this year's pilgrimage.

Among the 27 pilgrims were John

Kaup and Paul Buchanan, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"As a new seminarian, the pilgrimage to Fatima was an incredible way to begin my studies for the priesthood, and to dedicate those studies to Our Lady," said Buchanan. "After visiting the holy places and praying in the footsteps of saints, I know I am bound more closely to the Blessed Mother, and most especially to her Son."

In addition to Fatima, other sites visited included St. Jerome's Monastery and St. Anthony of Padua's Church in Lisbon, the home of Blessed Alexandrina in Balasar, and Our Lady of Nazare Church and the Church of the Eucharistic miracle in Santarem.

The Te Deum Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps provide for the material and spiritual needs of seminarians in formation for the priesthood.





COURTESY PHOTO

Kay Dziubczynski (left) and Mitzi Kermes review the sign-in sheet as they prepare for distribution at St. Philip the Apostle Church Food Closet Aug. 9. The Food Closet ministry serves between 120 and 130 families a month and each family receives at least \$100 worth of food.

## Parish Food Closet thrives under couple's direction

FOOD, from page 1

work with, we decided to stay on until we were 70," said Jewell.

"They have been a tremendous example for the parish and have contributed substantially to the growth of St. Philip Church," said Father Kurt Fohn, pastor.

"We are now 70 and it's time to leave it to younger, healthier, stronger-backed people," Jewell said.

The Jewells retired in August after 10 years, but are proud of their accomplishments with the ministry.

When they started, the Food Closet was serving approximately 20 families.

"At that time we were delivering to each family," said Jewell. "It has since grown considerably."

Now they serve between 120 and 130 families a month.

In 1998 they began getting food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston-Salem. At that time, the Jewells drove approximately 100 miles round-trip to Winston-Salem twice a month to pick up the food.

In 2003 Second Harvest Food Bank established a rural delivery program, by which the food is delivered directly to the church. It is stored in an on-site building and distributed on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

Because the bulk of the food comes from a federal program, certain guidelines must be met in order to qualify as a distributor. Rules for providers include

requirements for storage, application and non-discrimination.

Clients also must qualify in order to receive the federally provided food.

"Every July we get a new guideline of income that they have to meet," said Jewell.

The guideline is based on monthly income and the number of people living in the household.

Clients may receive federal food only once a month and must agree to receive food from only one agency.

Each family receives at least \$100 worth of food from the Food Closet. A majority of that comes from the federal program. The rest is purchased and acquired through donations from the church.

When the Jewells retired at the end of August, Jim and Mitzi Kermes took over the effort, along with help from Tom and Kay Dziubczynski.

"They (the Jewells) made it a pleasant experience helping at the Food Closet," said Jim Kermes. "We didn't want to see it fall apart or anything so we thought we'd help take over."

Kermes seems to think that the Jewells' days of helping at the parish Food Closet are not completely over.

"They've given us advice from day one," said Kermes, "and trust me, I call them whenever I have a question."

"We said we'd be available to help them whenever they need us," said Jewell.

"We'll probably miss it a little bit," she added. "But it's going to be nice to have a little bit of free time."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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# Pro-life campaign spreads widely by word of mouth

*Three new locations to participate in '40 Days for Life' added in Diocese of Charlotte*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — On Sept. 24, pro-lifers from around the country will join in solidarity to kick off the third national campaign of "40 Days for Life."

Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, pro-life leaders in four different locations are gearing up for the local campaign.

A nationwide ecumenical effort, "40 Days for Life" aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting, outreach and vigils.

This year there will be 173 campaigns at abortion clinics in 45 states, two Canadian provinces and Puerto Rico. In the Diocese of Charlotte, campaigns will be held in Alexander County, Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

The first campaign took place in 2004 in College Station, Texas. In 2007 the effort went nationwide, with campaigns in 89 cities in 33 states.

Charlotte was one of the first cities to join the effort by participating in the campaign last fall and then again in the spring. This is the first time for the other three locations.

The original goal of the "40 Days for Life" campaign was to have members of the community pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week outside a local abortion clinic for a total of 40 days.

This year, due to safety and logistics, organizers in the Diocese of Charlotte have scaled back on the hours.

Vigils will be held in Charlotte at A Preferred Women's Health Center, in Greensboro at Planned Parenthood and in Winston-Salem at Forsyth Women's Center/Planned Parenthood.

Organizers in Alexander County are taking a different approach due to the smaller size of the community and the absence of an abortion facility.

There won't be an actual vigil location, but "for 40 days we are challenging the churches and individuals in the area to pray," said organizer Denise Games.

At each of the sites, participants rotate in shifts, and no one is ever alone.

The "40 Days for Life" campaign began entirely as a grassroots effort and has spread widely by word of mouth and internet communication.

"I saw what they were doing and thought that would be great to do something like that here," said Chip Cush, parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, who first heard about the campaign in an e-mail from Priests for Life.

"The beauty of this campaign is that there is a way for everyone to get involved," said Toni Buckler, parishioner of Holy Family Church and one of the coordinators of the Winston-Salem effort.

"This is a universal issue. It involves all of us," she said. "We are all responsible to end abortion in one way or another."

In Greensboro and Winston-Salem, coordinators have organized pro-life talks by Dr. Martha Shuping, a pro-life

advocate, to be given in conjunction with the kick-off of the "40 Days for Life" campaign.

She will speak on the "Burden of Choice, Healing after Abortion" at Holy Cross Church Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m., and at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

"We're hoping that after Dr. Shuping's talks we'll be able to get some more interest," said Buckler.

"We all have to do our part by our prayer and our witness; and we let God do the rest," said Jason Beckert, parishioner of St. Matthew Church and one of the Charlotte coordinators.

"He'll make it happen but we have to be faithful and trust in him," he said.

For Beckert, last year's campaign was his first experience praying outside of an abortion clinic.

"I did my pro-life thing, but I didn't actually put myself out there," he said.

Beckert admitted that he was a little surprised by the peaceful nature of the campaign and the positive impact it had on his prayer life. "It was like being in adoration," he said of praying outside the abortion clinic. "I just really felt connected to the Lord."

National organizers provide participants with a daily devotional which includes a Scripture reading, reflection and prayer. While there is organized spoken prayer, 90 percent of the prayer outside the clinics is silent, according to Shawn Carney, board treasurer of the national campaign.

"The 'saves' are exciting and they're neat, but that's not the only thing," said Beckert. "If no one is saved that day, it doesn't mean that it was a failure."

*Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.*

## WANT MORE INFO?

Visit [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com).

## '40 DAYS FOR LIFE' IN DIOCESE

### Alexander County

Denise Games (828) 632-1680

### Charlotte

A Preferred Women's Health Center,  
3220 Latrobe Dr.

— 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily

Andrea Hines (704) 996-4597

Jason Beckert (704) 996-8258

### Greensboro

Planned Parenthood, 1704 Battleground Ave.

— 12 to 2 p.m. daily

— 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays

Chip Cush (336) 906-4378

### Winston-Salem

Forsyth Women's Center/Planned  
Parenthood, 3000 Maplewood Ave.

— 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily

Toni Buckler (336) 782-6062

Donna Dyer (336) 940-2558

## Diocese investigating alleged misconduct No prior allegations made against teacher

KERNERSVILLE — A former student of Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville has come forward about an alleged incident of sexual misconduct involving a teacher.

The former student, now 25, informed Principal George Repass Sept. 4 of the incident that allegedly occurred in 2001 in the teacher's home.

The teacher was questioned by the principal and denied the allegation. In accordance with the Diocese of Charlotte's policy on sexual abuse, the teacher was suspended Sept. 5.

As required by state law, the Diocese of Charlotte reported the incident to Forsyth County Department of Social Services Sept. 5.

The diocese will comply and cooperate fully with any investigation by the authorities, while conducting its own investigation of the allegation.

Also on Sept. 5, the chancery notified the diocesan Review Board, which investigates and reviews cases of sexual misconduct reported in the diocese, and a letter from Repass and Linda Cherry, superintendent of Catholic schools, was sent to parents of Bishop McGuinness students, informing them of the allegation.

School board members, faculty and area pastors also were notified of the allegation.

The teacher was hired in 1991. A criminal background check, which is conducted on all diocesan employees, indicated the teacher had no prior criminal record of sexual misconduct.

No other allegations regarding the teacher have been reported in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The teacher had undergone training on sexual misconduct by church

personnel, as is required by diocesan policy of all diocesan employees and volunteers.

As a result of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People — issued by the U.S. bishops in 2002 — the Diocese of Charlotte implemented its Protecting God's Children program.

The program educates and trains adults (mandatory for all clergy, religious, teachers, staff and volunteers) about the dangers of abuse, and ways to prevent and report it.

To date, there have been 690 Protecting God's Children workshops held throughout the diocese — 18,200 people have participated in the program.

Also, 17,400 background checks have been processed in the diocese, more than 2,400 in the last year alone.

In July 2003, the Diocese of Charlotte issued its revised Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel.

In addition to establishing the Review Board, the diocese also appointed a coordinator to assist survivors of sexual abuse, whether the incident took place in the diocese or elsewhere.

At the conclusion of the latest independent compliance audit, which covered the period of August 2005 through June 2007, the diocese was found to be compliant with all articles of the charter.

## WANT MORE INFO?

Visit [www.charlottediocese.org/protectinggodschildren.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/protectinggodschildren.html).

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## Upcoming Fall Days of Reflection

**Tuesday, Sept. 30 — Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte — 10am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Sept. 18th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Bishop Emeritus William Curlin, retired**

**Wednesday, October 15 — St. Barnabas, Arden — 10am-3 pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Oct. 2nd**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte**

**Tuesday, Oct. 28 — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory — 10am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, October 14th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. John McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Church**

**Thursday, November 13 — St. James, Hamlet — 10:30am-3pm**

**Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 4th**

**Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, retired, Belmont Abbey**



**Cost: \$13 includes lunch.** Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.**

**For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.**





COURTESY PHOTO

Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, prior of the Augustinian community in Maggie Valley, is pictured with Joan and Charles Surber from St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville and John and Therese Van Dyck of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley after their affiliation into the Order of St. Augustine at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 27.

# Two couples from diocese recognized by Augustinians

OSA, from page 1

honor is for many people," Therese Van Dyck said.

The Province of St. Thomas of Villanova is made up of priests and brothers whose ministry extends along the East Coast. Affiliation is a way to recognize someone's "distinguished cooperation for the good of the order," as the order's constitutions note. "By reason of this affiliation, they belong to the Augustinian Family and share in all the spiritual benefits of the order."

Augustinian Father Donald Reilly, prior provincial of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, presented the Van Dycks, Surbers and 17 other new affiliates during the affiliation ceremony and Mass in St. Thomas of Villanova Church on Villanova University campus in Philadelphia, Pa.

Augustinian Father Michael DiGregorio, assistant to the order's prior general, presided at the Mass Aug. 27.

The provincial and council of the province nominate the affiliates; the order's prior general and council in Rome approve the nominations.

At the Aug. 27 ceremony, each couple or individual received a book about St. Augustine and a hand-lettered affiliation certificate.

"We rejoice to celebrate the affiliation to our order of a number of couples and individuals whom we wish to invite into a closer spiritual union with us because of their distinguished cooperation for the good of the order," Father DiGregorio said.

In 1998, the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova was looking for new areas in which to minister. Then-Bishop William G. Curlin invited them to North Carolina.

"I want you to come to the Diocese of Charlotte and live your Augustinian way of life and help me in any way you

can," Bishop Curlin had said.

Bishop Curlin, who was affiliated to the order last year, was to have attended the recent affiliation ceremony but was unable to because of another commitment.

Augustinians now staff St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte and St. Margaret of Scotland Church and Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

Moving to North Carolina, the friars were coming to a new environment. Their headquarters in Philadelphia had 12 friaries in close proximity. Some parishes in the area had Augustinian staffs for a long time.

"Nearly every place we've been, we've been there 100 years or more," said Augustinian Brother William Harkin, director of Living Waters and prior of the Augustinian community in Maggie Valley.

"We were going to a place where (Augustinians) had never been before," he said.

However, they were quickly at home in their new environment.

"It didn't take long," John Van Dyck said. "They reached out into the community."

"The challenge was, how do we come to Maggie Valley and live our Augustinian way of life? And that's where these four came in," Brother Harkin said.

The Surbers and the Van Dycks eased the friars' transition to rural Haywood County. They had welcomed the friars into their own families, helping them to feel at home, treating them as brothers to whom they were always available.

"We did it for two reasons," Therese Van Dyck said. "We didn't want recognition. We loved the Lord first, and we really love the Augustinians."

John Van Dyck brought his woodworking skills to the beautification of St. Margaret of Scotland Church's sanctuary, while Therese Van Dyck utilized her artistic skills to decorate the sanctuary and the friary.

"They have graciously welcomed all of the friars who have ever visited Maggie Valley and incorporated them into their home and family," said the program notes.

The Surbers are involved in many activities at St. John the Evangelist Church and assisted Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan when he was pastor for more than eight years.

They volunteer at the retreat center by helping to prepare meals for large retreat groups, including the diocese's priest retreat, and helping guests feel welcome.

"They embraced our Augustinian ideals and made them a central part of their lives from the time we began to staff that parish and the parish and retreat house in Maggie Valley," the program noted. "They have become members of our Augustinian family as if it were a natural consequence of coming to know us and to know the ideals of community life written about by St. Augustine."

It was easy. The friars, Joan Surber said, "are very approachable. You didn't mind helping and, besides, it's fun."

## FIND HEALING IN HER 'SHOWER OF ROSES'

Saint Therese of Lisieux



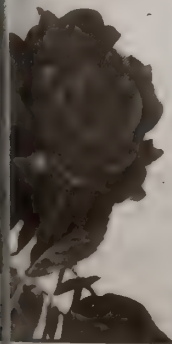
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# Biblical scholars provide pope with research, advice

BIBLE, from page 1

In fact, more than a year before the Vatican told bishops' conferences around the world that "Yahweh," a name for the God of Israel that Jews do not say aloud, must not "be used or pronounced" in songs or prayers during Catholic Masses, Pope Benedict XVI asked the Pontifical Biblical Commission to research the issue.

Passionist Father Donald Senior, president of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a member of the biblical commission, said Pope Benedict asked for the commission's input after a Jewish leader requested that the church consider respecting their long tradition.

The biblical commission has 20 members — currently 19 clerics and a German layman — usually appointed to two five-year terms.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and president of the biblical commission, said its primary task is to serve as a consultative body to his congregation and therefore to the pope and the church at large.

The commission, he told Catholic News Service, "ensures that there will be a dialogue on biblical themes at the very heart of the church."

And, he said, the fact that the members come from different parts of the world "allows for a dynamic exchange of various cultural perspectives."

Father Senior said the scholars have different approaches to the Bible, but all are recognized specialists in the field.

Because their names are suggested to the Vatican by national bishops' conferences and because they serve as

Vatican consultants, "obviously you are not going to have people who are at loggerheads with the church," he said.

Before the Second Vatican Council, the biblical commission was made up almost entirely of bishops and was charged with monitoring the orthodoxy of Catholic biblical scholars and overseeing the curriculum of biblical studies for seminaries and pontifical universities.

Father Senior said that, with Vatican II, its promotion of Bible reading and its openness to new trends in biblical scholarship, the commission went from being a watchdog agency to being a scholarly commission with a pastoral approach, focusing on the Bible and modern church concerns.

The changed approach, he said, is particularly evident in the last three commission documents:

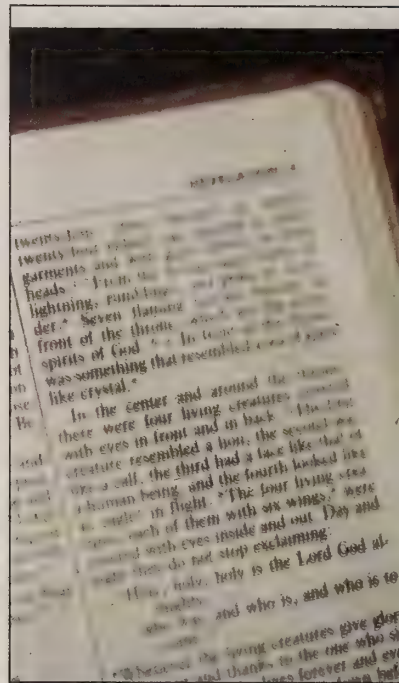
— The 1993 document, "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church," examined different scholarly approaches to the interpretation of Scriptures.

With the exception of its treatment of fundamentalism, the examinations were basically positive, with small sections warning of possible dangers if one method is used exclusively or radically.

— The 2001 document, "The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible," highlighted the importance of the Old Testament for Christianity, encouraged studying Jewish interpretations of the Hebrew Scriptures and condemned attempts to use New Testament criticism of some Jews as an excuse to denigrate Jews and Judaism.

— The latest document, "The Bible and Morality," was to be released in English in September.

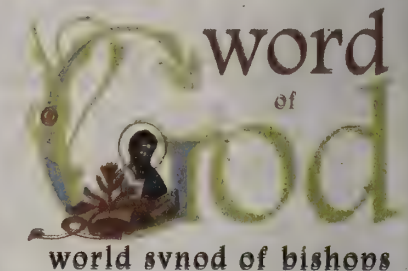
Father Senior said its central concern is "How do you take a text that is ancient



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

*A passage from the Book of Revelation, a prophetic book of the Bible filled with rich symbolism, illustrates the difficulty one may encounter when reading Scripture.*

*Pope Benedict XVI has a team of biblical scholars for research and advice about Scriptures.*



world synod of bishops

— revered and sacred, but ancient — from another time and culture and have it be relevant to contemporary moral issues?"

The document makes some reference to a few specific moral issues, especially the sacredness of life and the importance of the family, but also safeguarding the environment, he said.

Its main goal is to outline principles or guidelines for applying biblical values in the contemporary world, he said.

The text shows that in the Bible "certain issues rise to the top among the whole spectrum of moral concern," he said.

"From the stories of the Old

Testament to Jesus, there are certain things — the cry of the poor, justice, community — that are more than examples," he said. "They are streams of concern that are very close to the bone when talking about the church and the teachings of Jesus."

The doctrinal congregation authorized the publication of the document.

Because the biblical commission is a consultative body, a document it produces is "like a (government) white paper: If they decide to publish it, it's fine; if they decide to shelve it, we really cannot complain," Father Senior said.

## Critical analysis of Scripture took centuries to develop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The quest to understand what God is saying in Scripture has been pursued for centuries. In the church's early days, Scripture was accepted largely on faith and any critical look was seen as distorting God's message. However, a more critical look at Scripture began emerging among Catholic scholars by the 17th century. Father Richard Simon in France published the first "critical history" of the Old Testament in 1678.

By the 19th century the rise of natural science led to questions about the accuracy of the Bible. Darwin's theory of evolution was published in 1859; scientific research showed the earth was much older than the 6,000 years Genesis suggested; and the discovery of biblical manuscripts and records of ancient civilizations called into question long-held beliefs of biblical inspiration and revelation.

On Nov. 18, 1893, in an attempt to counter the challenges, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical in which he acknowledged that some errors in Bible passages could have been introduced by scribes. At the same time he prohibited any interpretation that led to conclusions that only part of Scripture was true while other segments were problematic. He also said there may be a need for Catholic biblical scholars to turn to authors outside the church, "especially in

matters of criticism."

It would be 50 years before the church again addressed the issue of critical biblical analysis, but when it occurred, the field of biblical scholarship was altered tremendously.

In 1943, Pope Pius XII opened a new era of Catholic biblical studies when he issued the encyclical "Divino Afflante Spiritu" ("Inspired by the Divine Spirit"). While Pope Pius did not promote the historical-critical method that had come into wide use in the first decades of the 20th century, he welcomed sound historical research in studying the Bible.

It would not be until the Second Vatican Council that lay Catholics were formally encouraged to study the Bible in the context of their own lives. One of the principal documents, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, stated that Scripture was produced by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and, as such, deserves to be studied widely using different forms of critical analysis.

More recently, Pope Benedict XVI has cautioned that the historical-critical method has its limits even though it is a vital tool in biblical studies. He maintains the Bible should be viewed in whole as the word of God in which all parts relate to each other, and said the Bible offers a spiritual journey and is not a "textbook" on divine matters.



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# Leading people to read Bible is challenge for pope

CHALLENGE, from page 1

The pope views the lack of scriptural formation as part of a wider crisis of catechetics in the church.

At a more academic level, the pope sees a danger in modern biblical interpretation that he believes diminishes the meaning of Scripture and erodes the bond between Bible and church.

In particular, he has warned that various modern-day methods of interpreting the Bible are too limiting; for instance, some scholars read Scripture as if they are seeking to break a code and pluck out answers one by one.

Instead, Pope Benedict believes the Bible must be seen as a whole and as the word of God, in which everything relates to everything else and offers the possibility of a spiritual journey, rather than being seen as a textbook on divine matters.

So in convoking some 250 bishops for the Oct. 5-26 synod, the pope did not intend to host a forum for scriptural analysis. His primary interest is pastoral, and a main challenge is to lead more Catholics to the Bible.

As he told synod planners earlier this year, reading, interpreting and living the words of Scripture are fundamental to the faith life of Christians. Without that, the church's great works in the modern age — including evangelization and ecumenism — are bound to stall, he said.

Nor does the pope believe that

scriptural expertise comes before the simple experience of reading the Bible. As a cardinal, he once said that he shares the view of liberation theology that the Bible belongs to the people, not the scholars.

And while specialists are needed, he said, "the real and essential meaning of the Bible is something the simple believer can grasp just as well."

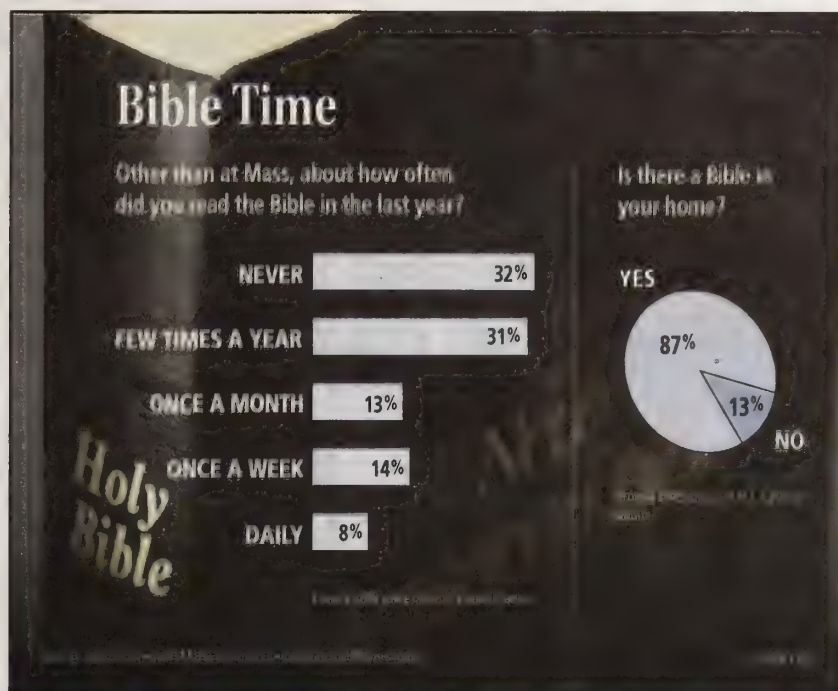
That's something the pope has been promoting as universal pastor since his election in 2005. The very first words of his pontificate were a quote from Scripture — a greeting from the First Letter of Peter — and his talks and sermons over the last three and a half years have included some 3,000 references to scriptural passages.

The pope once said the Bible would be one of two books he would take with him if marooned on an island (the other was St. Augustine's "Confessions.") His own familiarity with Scripture is evident in the way he cites passages even in off-the-cuff remarks.

His written works seem to breathe Scripture. His first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), was typical. It began with a citation from the First Letter of John and on practically every page drew from the Old and New Testaments, often making connections between the two.

In his discussion of unjustified suffering, for example, he begins with a lesson from the Book of Job, then weaves in several Gospel passages.

One of Pope Benedict's primary convictions is that the New Testament



offers the key to understanding the Old Testament and that, as a whole, the Bible necessarily leads to Christ.

But he believes this traditional Christological approach has been threatened by some modern schools of interpretation that would limit the meaning of any biblical book to the author's historical context.

In a 2001 essay, he described in dramatic terms how such interpretation jeopardized the "internal harmony" of the Bible as understood by Christians through the centuries.

By presuming that Old Testament writers could not have intended to refer in advance to Christ and the New Testament faith, he warned, this new line of biblical study would "sound the death knell" for the Christian understanding of Old Testament-New Testament unity.

As early as the Second Vatican Council, the pope — then Father Joseph Ratzinger — was involved deeply in a debate over the relationship among Scripture, tradition and the church's magisterium, or teaching authority.

Here, too, the future pope identified a dangerous trend in biblical interpretation that saw Scripture as the entire deposit of the faith. As a council expert, he wrote that this approach was not balanced and that "revelation ... is greater even than the words of Scripture."

Much later, he expanded on this point in the book, "God and the World," saying that when it came to the authorship of the Bible it was clear that "God did not just dictate these words." Instead, the

words of Scripture bear the impression of a history guided by God, a history that directly involves the church, he said.

Pope Benedict always has emphasized that this history continues, and that the Bible, far from a piece of literature or a historical record, is a living book that touches the present.

In a foreword to his 2007 book, "Jesus of Nazareth," the pope said the books of Scripture involve three interacting subjects: the individual author, the church and God.

"The people of God — the church — is the living subject of Scripture; it is in the church that the words of the Bible are always in the present," he wrote.

What he attempted to do in his book on Jesus, he explained, was to use historical insights to help reveal the figure of Jesus, but to go beyond purely historical interpretation.

Instead, he said, his method takes the conviction of faith — faith that Jesus truly was God — as a starting point for reading Scripture. This approach allows for a proper theological interpretation of the Bible, yet does not sacrifice the church's "serious engagement with history," he said.

The pope has noted the Bible's ability to inspire individuals and impact their day-to-day decisions. But he has also cautioned against reading the Bible for easy answers, which would "turn Scripture into an oracle."

What's important, he once said, is to "read the Bible regularly, to let it keep us company and guide us."



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Author-screenwriter struck by faith of Mexican players

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — If you were to buy a copy of the new book "The Perfect Game," you'd see a photograph of the 1957 Little League team from Monterrey, Mexico — the first non-American Little League World Series champions — standing in a church in Mexico City, in uniform, praying to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The faith of these 14 11- and 12-year-olds was that strong, said William O. Winokur, author of "The Perfect Game," a novelized treatment of the Monterrey team's odyssey in the Little League tournament through a country none had ever visited before.

Winokur also wrote the screenplay for a movie of the same name scheduled for release in April 2009 — when the new baseball season starts.

"One of the things I tried to do was pay homage and respect to that faith," Winokur said in an Aug. 18 interview with Catholic News Service. "Not to overdo it, but their faith was so important to those kids and that community."

The team insisted on a blessing before each Little League tournament game they played as they worked their way deeper into the United States. It was a tougher go in Kentucky, not a heavily Catholic state.

"I think they assumed there was a priest in every small town. That was their experience," Winokur told CNS.

Before one Kentucky game, the boys were willing to accept a forfeit rather than play without a blessing. Their rationale, according to Winokur: "We are only here because of God's blessing. We are not going to play without him."

"They managed to drum up a (Protestant) minister who gave a blessing," Winokur said.

The undersized team crossed the Mexican-U.S. border by foot in uniform, carrying not only their bats and equipment but also "a change of underwear in a paper bag," according to Winokur.

They walked 12 miles in their baseball cleats to their first tourney stop in McAllen, Texas.

There and elsewhere, they beat bigger and faster teams. In the World Series final against a much-heralded team from California, Monterrey pitcher



Angel Macias, an ambidextrous "switch-pitching" hurler, tossed a perfect game — the first ever thrown at Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pa.

Winokur met with each of the surviving Little Leaguers from Monterrey and their coach, Cesar Faz; he also interviewed the widows of those players who had died in the intervening 51 years.

From his interviews, he said, it was obvious to him that they "walked the walk of faith, not just talked about faith. They actually deeply lived by that, and if they didn't have that, they would have had nothing."

One of the more touching episodes he related in the book dealt with Monterrey player Baltasar Charles, who almost did not make the trip with his teammates.

"Even though he was only 12 years of age, he was the primary caregiver of his younger sister (Patricia), who was born an invalid (due to a paralytic condition). He would take her everywhere.

"The night before they were supposed to leave, he told his team he just couldn't be away from Patricia. She came to him and said, 'Balta, if you don't go I will never forgive myself. I will feel as if I were the one who prevented you from being with your teammates.'"

Years after the Monterrey team's triumph, Baltasar said "he would have traded everything he had done in his life just to give his sister peace."

Patricia died a few years after the Little Leaguers' championship.

"I get a lump in my throat when I think about her," Winokur told CNS.

While the book and movie are based on actual events, Winokur said he chose to call the book a work of fiction because of the varying recollections of 10 or more people who lived through events of 50 years ago. "I didn't set out to write a journalistic account. I set out to weave a story," he added.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 21, 2007

Sept. 21, Twenty-fifth  
Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:6-9  
Psalm 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18
- 2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a  
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

## God's generosity is plentiful, often unexpected

BY JEFF HNESLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

God's generosity toward all his creation seems to be a thread running through this week's readings. Having just read through them when a friend from St. Louis came to visit, I think they were still on my mind when he and I went to lunch.

We were joined by the two women who direct our diocese's diaconate formation program. It wasn't planned, it just happened that at a restaurant seven miles from our diocesan offices we ran into each other.

A joyous time of sharing over food followed our chance meeting. It seemed a gift from a generous God.

And it must have triggered the

conversation my friend and I had over coffee later, filled with stories of God's seeming intervention in our lives: a time I was nearly attacked by pit bulls, but a pickup truck happened by at just the right time to block the dogs; a time when a long overdue rain and very slick streets caused my friend to slide through an intersection while the opposing traffic seemed to stand still; and the stories continued to flow.

When Jesus speaks of the workers in the vineyard, jealous of the full day's wages the latecomers were paid, it is likely he is speaking of the jealousy of the religious people of his day when those who had only recently repented of their sinful ways were welcomed by him.

But he also is speaking of a generous God who is free to give as he sees fit, not limited by our conceptions.

The Isaiah passage speaks of that same generosity of God. The psalm says, "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works."

We are among his works. Should we not acknowledge his great kindness toward us, the mercy he shows us?

Our lives are in his hands, Paul points out in the reading from Philippians. Then he tells his readers how we should respond to that generosity: "Only conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 14-20

Sunday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross), Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; Monday (Our Lady of Sorrows), 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, John 19:25-27; Tuesday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian), 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; Wednesday (St. Robert Bellarmine), 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 7:31-35; Thursday, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; Friday (St. Januarius), 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; Saturday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 21-27

Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16; Monday, Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; Tuesday (St. Pio of Pietrelcina), Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; Wednesday, Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; Thursday, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; Friday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian), Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; Saturday (St. Vincent de Paul), Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8, Luke 9:43-45.

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## Director's film about love, loss helps him deal with own loss

BY MARK PATTISON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Film director Mark Pellington chose a tale about love and loss as his latest movie project to deal with his own love and loss.

The title character in "Henry Poole Is Here" is ready to drink himself to death in the dilapidated house he has just bought upon receiving the diagnosis of a terminal illness.

Pellington's wife, Jennifer, a film costumer, died four years ago and he took to alcohol to numb his spirit until, by his own calculation, he got sober two years later.

In the film, which opened Aug. 15, Poole's turnaround begins, although he doesn't know it, when one neighbor sees the image of Christ — due in part to badly done stucco work — on an exterior wall of the house.

The change in him accelerates when a blood stain of inexplicable origin appears on the wall, and it goes into high gear when another neighbor's young daughter starts talking again following a year of silence after her father abandoned the family.

Pellington's release from the grip of sorrow came in his work. While hedging his bets with different film, television and video projects in varying stages of development, he told Catholic News Service in an Aug. 12 telephone interview from Los Angeles, "I was kind of hoping this would be the one."

"It contained a lot of the elements I had been searching for. Loss, I could relate to that — not Henry and his possible demise, but Esperanza (the first neighbor) and the loss of her love (a man who had died in the house Henry bought), and the little girl who was shut down — and do a story where I could put together the range of feelings and express the small emotional details," he said.

"The process of actually making it and processing it and mixing it was quite cathartic," Pellington added. "Watching it the other night, I was in another place (in life). I leaned over to a friend and said, 'Wow, this is really sad.' It contained all the sadness I had a year ago."

As director of a "charming fable,"

**"It contained a lot of the elements I had been searching for."**

— Mark Pellington

Pellington "sustains a suspenseful, sometimes poetic, generally unsentimental mood, not without humor," said a review by Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting.

"This little gem of a film with its truthful emotions, likable characters, and themes of faith and community concern — even when Henry commits a desperate act — should resonate warmly with Catholic viewers."

The film, which stars Luke Wilson, Radha Mitchell, George Lopez and Cheryl Hines, received a classification of A-II — adults and adolescents — from the film and broadcasting office for "two instances of profanity and a few crass words."

Pellington, 46, the son of a Baltimore Colts linebacker, was raised an Episcopalian. He wanted to follow in his father's football footsteps until a high school injury dashed that dream.

He admitted his churchgoing dropped off in his 20s, but he picked it up again once he got married. Today, it's "sporadic," and while "I believe in God and Jesus Christ completely," he told CNS, "I rely on more than the church for my inspiration to question both the good and bad handed to me in life."

Backers of "Henry Poole Is Here" have mounted a campaign to win Catholic endorsement of the film. Outreach has been made to such groups as the Knights of Columbus, the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and Lifeteen, according to Corby Pons of Different Drummer, a Washington-based promotion firm.

Renew International's Theology on Tap has published a six-page study guide to the movie.

## Bringing the Mass home

*Ministry provides Mass DVDs to homebound*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

KANNAPOLIS — A new ministry is bringing the Mass into the homes of those who are unable to attend church on Sunday.

DVDs for the Homebound, an outreach ministry of Knights of Columbus Council 12167 at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis, provides weekly recordings of the Mass on DVD to elderly or infirm parishioners who are unable to attend Mass.

Each Sunday, English- and Spanish-language Masses are recorded by seven high-resolution video cameras and burned to DVDs.

Extraordinary ministers of holy Communion deliver the DVDs when they take Communion to homebound parishioners. If they don't have DVD players, the Knights loan them the equipment.

"It keeps them connected and lets them know what's going on in the parish," said Pete Devlin, parishioner of St. Joseph Church and member of Council 12167.

Devlin, an electrician, was instrumental in setting up the cameras and launching the program.

"You don't have to spend a ton of money," he said.

It costs only \$.18 for a blank DVD.

Baptisms, first Communion and confirmations are also recorded and offered to parishioners in exchange for a \$5 donation.

That money is used to purchase the blank DVDs; thus the program is self-supporting.

Each year, Knights of Columbus councils from around the state submit their best projects to be judged on the state level.

This year, DVDs for the Homebound was awarded first prize.

The program was then judged by the Supreme Council, the governing body of the Knights of Columbus, where it took second place out of 13,000 councils internationally.

"We were very proud of getting the award," said Devlin, who was especially excited about the publicity the program has received as a result.



COURTESY PHOTO

A recording of a baptism is seen on a television screen in the control room at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis in this undated photo. Baptisms, first Communion and confirmations are recorded and offered to parishioners in exchange for a \$5 donation to help support the DVDs for the Homebound ministry.

"We're having more and more councils and churches inquire about the program," he said.

"This is one of the programs we'd love everybody to steal," he added.

One facet of the program that Devlin has been particularly pleased with is the showing of the Mass DVDs at Concord House nursing home in Concord.

"The people who are in nursing homes and who are homebound begin to feel isolated from their faith communities," said Amy Detter, head of extraordinary ministers of holy Communion at St. Joseph Church.

"Being able to take the Mass to them and have them see it, and feel like they were present, helps them to stay connected to their faith community," she said.

At Concord House, a recording of the Mass is shown every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m.

There are only two Catholic residents in the nursing home, but eight to 14 residents typically attend the weekly viewings of the Mass.

"We're exposing the Catholic Mass to non-Catholics," said Devlin, who hopes to start bringing the DVDs of the Mass to two other nursing homes in the area as well.

"For those who are not members of our faith community who happen to be in a nursing home that we service, they at least feel like they are getting to participate in a Mass, even if it is just viewing it," said Detter.

"It really has a positive impact on their outlook and helps them keep their faith strong, even though they are in difficult circumstances," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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## Projects from the heart



COURTESY PHOTO

Gary Bouton, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, is seen in this black-and-white photo assisting youths from outside the diocese who took part in a Catholic Heart Work Camp in Greensboro July 21-24.

## Teens far and wide take part in workcamp

GREENSBORO — For some teenagers, summer wasn't only about vacationing.

As teens and chaperones from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro traveled to Pennsylvania, hundreds of others came from around the country to Greensboro.

The youths and adults were taking part in Catholic Heart Workcamp, a national organization that provides teens with opportunities for faith-powered mission work throughout the country. The exchange took place July 20-26.

The group of about 30 teens from St. Paul the Apostle Church spent their time performing service projects around Greensburg, Pa. One group of six worked at Union Mission, a men's shelter, where they rose at 6:15 a.m. every morning to

strip wallpaper and paint; build sheds; install toilets, kitchen cabinets, sinks and lights.

Teens came to Greensboro from Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. At night they slept on the floor of St. Paul the Apostle Church's parish life center. During the day, they worked on homes of area senior citizens, cleared brush at two therapeutic riding centers and assisted hospice clients.

Catholic Heart Workcamp was founded in Orlando, Fla., in 1993. The first workcamp in Orlando drew 100 participants. Today, there are hundreds of parishes and thousands of teens involved in cities across the United States, and in Jamaica and Mexico.

## Hearty work for teens



COURTESY PHOTO

Teens and chaperones from St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton are pictured during the Catholic Heart Workcamp in Prince Frederick, Md., July 13-19. The group performed a variety of service projects during the workcamp, including painting and cleaning houses, landscaping and staining a fence.

Pictured (front row, from left) are seminarian Paul McNulty, Karla Fuentes, Sara Canada; (back row, from left) chaperone Jan Billings, Patrick Billings, Sally Marie Schunke, Maree Pascall, Aaron Medina, Megan Hussey, youth minister Denise Hussey and Maria Pedro Vicente.

## Girl Scout troops earn awards



COURTESY PHOTO

Girl Scouts Troop 3112 (in green vests) and Junior Troop 1069 (in brown vests) of St. Patrick Cathedral each earned an Outstanding Troop Award for the 2007-08 school year. Girl Scout Hornets' Nest Council in Charlotte determined the winners and presented the awards. The Scouts and adult leadership team completed 18 unique requirements to earn the awards. In addition, adult leader Molly Dudick was recognized with the Girl Scout Leader of the Year Award and Leadership Development Award.

Adults pictured (from left) are Taffy Tyler, Molly Dudick, Mike Dudick, Tammy Normile and Julie Kern.



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## End-of-summer spirituality



COURTESY PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, is pictured with participants of the parish's annual end-of-summer youth retreat, held at Balsam Lake Lodge in Tuckasegee, N.C., Aug. 8-10. The retreat, led by Belle Harcourt, parish director of religious education, featured talks by seminarian David Miller; Jane Sullivan and Renee Pierce, members of the parish faith formation team; and Father Williams, who also celebrated Mass.

## Enriching summer



COURTESY PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Ana Balta (left), a 16-year-old parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, is pictured Aug. 17 with a few of the nearly 30 children who took part in the parish's Hispanic Children's Enrichment program Aug. 4-8. Also pictured are (from left) Isa Colex, Cesar Colex, Ruby Guadarrama, Gabriel Fuentes and Aaron Guadarrama.

Ana, who is fluent in both English and Spanish, organized and planned the entire program, which mixed learning with interactive games and sports. In the classes, Ana taught the children about science, plants, animals, insects and the solar system.

Ana wanted to utilize her Spanish and teaching skills as a summer project, and plans to hold the program again next summer.

## Parish committee reorganizes to encourage more stewardship in youths

**GREENSBORO** — The Youth Stewardship Committee at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro has been re-established and renamed the Youth Stewards in Action Committee.

"This committee will help nurture our parish-wide goal of 'stewardship as a way of life' by focusing directly on our youngest members," said Pat Spivey, pastoral associate.

"Both our church and school youths have always been involved in service," said Karen Lizotte, parish school board president and committee co-chair.

"But by forming this committee, the hope is to provide education, share ideas and offer support to those who serve all the children in our parish," she said.

The committee has planned monthly stewardship themes with related opportunities and activities that will be the focus of the entire parish. Themes include "Stewardship of Prayer," "Stewardship of Community," "Stewardship of Family" and "Stewardship of Creation."

The committee kicked off the new school year by sponsoring two mini retreats for both the parish faith formation catechists and the school teachers Aug. 19 and Sept. 15.

"Most people associate stewardship with the giving of money," said Lorraine Malphurs, second-grade teacher and committee member.

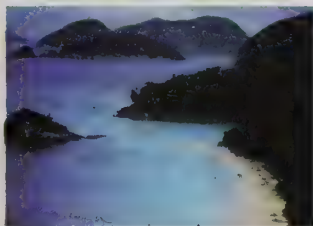
"We need to encourage a new way of thinking to help our children learn that all their gifts have been given by God and that they are called by their baptism to develop and share those gifts," said Malphurs.

The parish's first organized stewardship efforts began in 1986 and since then the parish has maintained an active stewardship committee. In the last few years, under the guidance of Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor, stewardship has become a hallmark of the parish.

Committee members hope to help children recognize their gifts and make stewardship a way of life.

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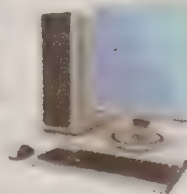
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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## We need a sign

*Lord uses Marian apparitions to answer our deepest needs*

How often have you heard someone say, "Where was God when I needed him?"

As frustrating as it may be to comprehend, God is never absent. He speaks to us in countless ways. Most of the time we are too spiritually deaf to hear his divine whisperings.

I am writing this article early in the morning on Aug. 11, 2008, because later tonight, God willing, I will be on a plane to one of the holiest places on earth, Lourdes, France. I am really excited to be leading a group of 80 pilgrims on their way to experience one of the great mystical realities of the church.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the apparition of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to St. Bernadette, where she said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Pope Benedict XVI said this on Feb. 11, 2007, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes: "The Virgin's appeal for prayer and penance resounds forcefully as an almost permanent echo of the invitation with which Jesus began his pilgrimage in Galilee."

Not everyone is inclined to believe in the factual reality of the Lourdes apparition, but they don't have to. This is not a matter of faith, like believing in the divinity of Christ or the Real Presence. It is more a matter of opening one's eyes, admitting that God may not be as silent as we might have thought.

An apparition is a sign to prepare and purify us for a great event, the day when we return fully to the Lord. It is also given to ignite a fire for the Lord here and now, to help us unite with him and his mystical body, the church.

Mary's original message in the Gospel is the same today: "Do whatever he tells you."

At Lourdes she asks us to pray and do penance. The need to unite with Jesus in offering our sufferings for the redemption of the world is as important now as it was

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



at the time of his crucifixion.

On Aug. 6 each year we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration, which was a sign from God of mystical intensity.

On Mount Tabor, God appeared to Peter, James and John to announce, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." It was a sign given to the church to ready us for the scandals and hard times we would have to face down through the ages, and to help us reaffirm our faith in Jesus.

Lourdes is a mystical sign of God's loving care. He uses Mary to answer our deepest needs, and his divine whisperings are not subtle for those who have ears to hear.

The walls covered with crutches testify to the many miraculous healings at Lourdes, which have occurred over those 150 years. People by the millions have been transported from fear to peace and from hopelessness to joyful expectation.

Bernadette's body was buried more than 122 years ago, but it was discovered only 30 years ago that her remains were still fresh. Instead of decayed bones, her body was intact, and a mystical fragrance of flowers greeted those who opened the tomb.

Even today some pilgrims smell this uniquely sweet aroma when they pass her glass coffin in Lourdes where she is perfectly preserved.

I will offer a special Mass at Lourdes for all who read this column.

## Letter to the Editor

## So much for freedom

So the National Abortion Rights Action League Pro-Choice America wants to have their cake and eat it too ("Not so pro-choice when it deals with freedom of conscience," Stephen Kent, Sept. 5).

That is, pregnant women who don't want to be pregnant should be able to go to a health care facility and demand an abortion, but a doctor dare not refuse from performing the procedure.

They think freedom is a good thing,

so long as it's freedom to kill an unborn baby or freedom to surgically terminate one's reproductive capacity.

But don't expect Planned Parenthood or NARAL Pro-Choice America to be in favor of the freedom of health care workers to refuse to participate in such egregious offenses against God.

What's wrong with this picture?

— Mary Pat Aróstegui  
Matthews

## 'Holy days of opportunity'

*We should never miss an opportunity for grace*

Holy days: all the great religions have them. Jews have them. Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists have them. And we Christians have them.

Among Christians, we Catholics are the champs of holy days. We have more than anybody else.

Some evangelical Protestants don't have any except the Sunday. Following the Reformation, they thought that only the Sabbath should be observed since only the Sabbath was scripturally mandated.

The Puritans even suppressed Christmas. Maybe that's why there are no more Puritans.

But even the evangelicals cannot suppress the impulse to create "holy days." So they have Reformation Day (which we don't observe for obvious reasons) and Bible Sunday, which is nonscriptural but OK because it mentions the Bible.

Even secular society has "holy days," which in English we call holidays, an obvious rip off from "holy days."

Some civic holy days, like Independence Day, are promulgated by the government. Others, like Mother's Day and Administrative Professionals' Day, are promulgated by the greeting card and floral industries. These are "Hallmark holy days."

Some Christian holy days, like Christmas, cross the line from religious to civic. Conversely, some civic holy days, like Thanksgiving, have crossed the line in the other direction and become religious holy days. Thanksgiving is my favorite of this type because everybody in the United States observes it.

Catholics also have official and unofficial holy days, not to be confused with feast days. The official holy days are all the Sundays and what Catholics uniquely call "holy days of obligation."

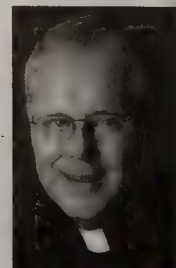
That phrase is so Catholic. It combines the sense of the grace-filled with legal requirements. That's us: grace-filled legalists.

My ecclesiastical desk calendar lists 15 Catholic holy days and principal moveable feasts. Most are Sundays, like Easter or Pentecost.

Some Catholic holy days are not "of obligation" but everybody comes anyway. For instance, Ash Wednesday. The people have decided that these sorts

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



of days should be holy days, even if the bishops haven't.

Good Friday should be a holy day "of obligation" but isn't. Seems like Good Friday is at least as important as the Assumption.

What do we do if we have a holy day of obligation and nobody comes? Punt.

Honest pastors will tell you that the pews are largely empty on some "second-tier" holy days like Ascension Thursday or the Immaculate Conception.

The U.S. bishops, having recognized this problem, developed a complicated set of rules that nobody can remember.

To wit: When a holy day falls on a Saturday or Monday, it is transferred to the following Sunday, except when it is a major feast.

OK.

It is so complicated that my calendar even has an asterisk which says, "See your local ordo for details." When you have to refer to another book, the calendar is way too complicated.

In my parish, I've tried to shift the emphasis away from the idea of obligation under pain of sin to opportunity for grace.

I call them (unofficially, of course) "holy days of opportunity." My people now recite this like a mantra. "Tomorrow is a holy day of opportunity."

I tell them God's grace awaits us. We are invited to the wedding banquet like the people in Jesus' parable. We should not refuse by saying, "I'm busy. I bought an ox." (Like Jesus is really going to believe that.)

We should never miss an opportunity for grace. Even if the government does not give you the day off. Even if it is transferred to the following Sunday by your local bishop. (See ordo for details.)

Go, because God's grace awaits you. It is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Celebrating the Eucharist

*Jesus, the bread of life, is with us in many ways*

"I received from the Lord what I handed on to you, namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

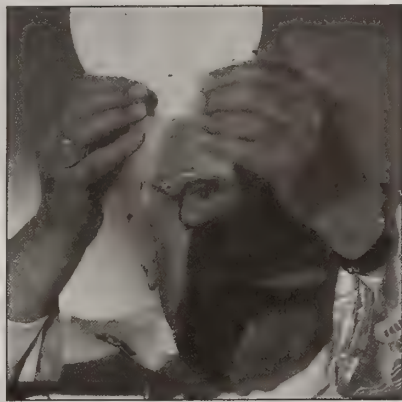
"In the same way, after the supper, he took the saving cup, and said: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me'" (1 Cor. 11:23-25).

We know that on the last night of his life, Jesus met with his disciples for the Last Supper, as we have come to call it. He wanted to do something that would make it possible for them to continue the experience of his living presence after he had gone.

St. John the Evangelist, also known as the Theologian, is the master of intimacy for his relationship with the Lord. His Gospel and letters are filled with expressions of emotional pathos.

He writes of Jesus' words: "The person who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him" (Jn. 6:55).

When I was student of theology, a long time ago, I was surprised that St. John was the only evangelist who did not report the institution of the Eucharist in his Gospel. Later I understood he took for granted that everybody knew of the



great event, so there was no need to report what everybody realized.

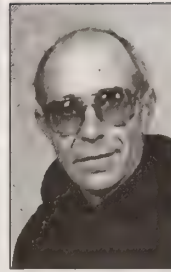
I also understood later, with the guidance of a good theology professor, that St. John's method is to take one incident or saying and develop it in such a way as to sharpen our understanding.

For example, his entire sixth chapter develops the theme of Jesus as the "bread of life." It is as if a great composer had taken his theme and developed it into a magnificent symphony.

Our gracious God reveals himself to us in many different ways. He reveals himself through historical events — an exodus from Egypt or a journey to Jerusalem. He comes to us through people, whom we can love and who can

## Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN C.  
AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



love us in return.

He indeed comes to us in countless ways, but St. John puts great emphasis on one very special way: He comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ as the bread of life.

The Catholic Church has always placed the Eucharist as a top priority and it will continue to do so, because without it, we cannot make our journey. It was 762 years ago that the feast of Corpus Christi was instituted by the bishop of Liege, Robert of Turotte, following the vision of Juliana of Liege, Belgium.

Later, Pope Urban IV, originally from Belgium himself, extended the observance of this feast to the entire Roman Catholic Church in 1264.

The real importance of celebrating the Eucharist is more than a remembrance; it is a celebration of life and life's attitudes. We can view our reality in a negative way, or we can view it Jesus' way, and find his presence wherever we are, wherever we look.

*Father John Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

## St. Paul embodies characteristics of Jesus' apostles, says pope

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although St. Paul was not one of the initial companions and followers of Jesus, he was a true apostle, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"St. Paul dedicated his entire existence to the Gospel, 24 hours a day," the pope said at his Sept. 10 weekly general audience at the Vatican.

The pope said St. Paul makes clear in his letters that he did not place himself on the same level as the original Twelve Apostles who were called personally by Jesus and were his companions during his earthly ministry.

Yet St. Paul's encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus "led to his mission; he could not continue as before, but was charged by the Lord to proclaim the resurrection, the Gospel, to be an apostle."

Pope Benedict has been talking about St. Paul during the Wednesday audiences as part of the church's celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth.

*Here is the text of the pope's remarks in English.*

In today's catechesis we turn to St. Paul's view of what it means to be an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Though he did not belong to the group of the Twelve, called by Jesus during his ministry, Paul nevertheless claims the title for himself because he was chosen and transformed by the grace of God, and shared the three principal characteristics of the true apostle.

The first is to have seen the Lord (1 Cor 9:1) and to have been called by him. One becomes an apostle by divine vocation, not by personal choice.

The second characteristic also underlines the divine initiative: an apostle is someone who is sent and therefore acts and speaks as a delegate of Christ, placed totally at his service.

The third characteristic is dedication to the work of proclaiming the Gospel and founding Christian communities.

St. Paul can point to his many trials and sufferings that speak clearly of his courageous dedication to the mission (cf. 2 Cor 11:23-28). In this context he sees an identification between the life of the apostle and the Gospel that he preaches; the apostle himself is despised when the Gospel is rejected. St. Paul was steadfast in his many difficulties and persecutions, sustained above all by the unfailing love of Christ (cf. Rom 8:35-39). May the example of his apostolic zeal inspire and encourage us today.

# It's time to pay attention

*Consider church teaching before voting*

Once, mid-September meant the beginning of the campaign conducted in the few weeks between the end of the political conventions and Election Day.

That was before politics fell victim to the pressures of media and marketing so that the presidential campaigns seem to commence a week after inauguration day.

The extended presidential campaign, relegated by over familiarity to background white noise because of its length, now regains its claim on the national agenda.

It's time to pay attention.

That means taking a closer look at our responsibilities.

Two perennial misunderstandings are bound to occur again: Those who believe Catholics are told by the church hierarchy for whom to vote and those Catholics who implore the church to do exactly that.

It is as erroneous to say that the church dictates candidates as it is presumptuous to say that it should.

The truth is that it is an individual's responsibility to decide whom to vote for, a decision that must be guided by faith and by measuring candidates against the standards based on that faith.

This is the time of year that editors brace themselves for the e-mails and letters accusing them of or complimenting them for favoring one candidate over another. They are based often on articles that

explain candidates' positions on issues.

Forming a right conscience requires discernment. Discernment is more and more difficult to accomplish in the age of instant information, when anyone's blog or Web site can post information verifiable or otherwise.

Previously it was the role of the mainstream media — yes, those with conscientious professional journalists — who reported and placed news events into context for their readers.

Today, as any wild charge or statement can gain circulation and credulity with little analysis, the media must help build the capacity of readers to help themselves.

Stories are created by Facebooks, text messages, blogs and virtual reality environments. Social networks change how we interact.

The role of responsible publications is to enhance the capability of the community to assess needs, solve problems and create solutions.

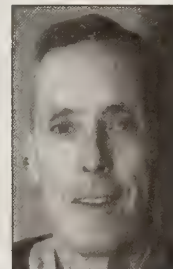
The duty of sorting through the spinning and Swift boating becomes increasingly difficult every election. A major tool in this is the statement published every four years by the U.S. bishops. This year's title is "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility."

Its purpose, in its own words:

"This statement highlights the role

## Consider This

STEPHEN KENT  
CNS COLUMNIST



of the church in the formation of conscience and the corresponding moral responsibility of each Catholic to hear, receive and act upon the church's teaching in the lifelong task of forming his or her own conscience.

"With this foundation, Catholics are better able to evaluate policy positions, party platforms and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel and the moral and social teaching of the church in order to help build a better world."

In addition to the document itself, the Web site ([www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)) has abundant resources — articles, videos, podcasts — all meant to assist the individual to shoulder his or her responsibility of citizenship.

There are still many weeks remaining before going to polls.

Consider this: How many hours do you spend on preparing income taxes? Think of investing at least that amount of time in studying the issues, the candidates and church teaching.

To do less is a grave failure of our responsibility as faithful citizens.





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- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

### GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



**Tarek Saab** — "Faith Gut Check" — Tarek rose to fame as a contestant on the popular TV show "The Apprentice." A dynamic speaker, Tarek focuses on chastity, modesty, business ethics, pornography, abortion and prayer.



**Fr. Richard Ho Lung** — "Servant of the Poor" — Fr. Ho Lung is the founder of The Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to joyful service of the poorest of the poor.



**Denis McNamara, M. Arch. H., Ph. D.** — "Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture" — Denis is an architectural historian who will show us how the role of sacred architecture affects our lives.



**Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.** — "Proclaiming Christ Through Our Reverence for the Human Person" — Sr. Terese is the Bioethics Chair of Pope John Paul the Great High School in Dumfries, Virginia.

### HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



**Roberto Ramirez**  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



**Hna. Bertha López Chávez**  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



**Lupita Venegas**  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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## Combating criticism

*Catholics have  
obligation to defend  
church, speaker says*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — All Catholics should respond when their religion is unfairly criticized or portrayed in the media, said William Donohue.

"If the church is being attacked, we as Catholics have an obligation to defend it," said Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Donohue was one of the speakers during the annual Catholic Leadership Conference held at a Charlotte hotel Sept. 11-12.

For the past 11 years, the conference has brought together leaders of national Catholic

See LEADERS, page 7

## Responding as disciples

*Workshop explores  
stewardship*

BY JOANITA M.  
NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

BRYSON CITY — Stewardship is our response to discipleship. Discipleship is a way of life.

St. Joseph Church in Bryson City celebrated its discipleship with a Mass Sept. 10 to honor the 67th anniversary of its dedication. A potluck

See STEWARDS, page 5

## Fostering the faith in France



CNS PHOTO BY PHILIPPE WOJAZER, REUTERS

People greet Pope Benedict XVI as he leaves Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris after celebrating vespers Sept. 12.

*During trip, Pope  
Benedict shows the  
many dimensions of  
his ministry*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

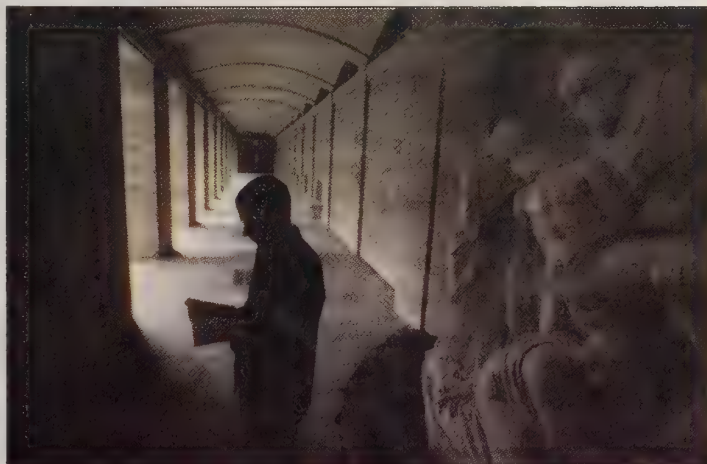
LOURDES, France — Being pope is not a one-dimensional job, a fact that was clearly evident during Pope Benedict XVI's four-day visit to France.

Arriving in Paris Sept. 12, the pope first engaged in an important political encounter that attempted to build on the new openness shown the church by President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Next, in a brief meeting with Jews, he managed to capsuleize in 20 graceful lines the church's respect for Judaism and its firm rejection of anti-Semitism.

That evening, the pope slipped into his academic role and delivered a lecture on monasticism's influence on

See FRANCE, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

A seminarian reads the Bible in a breezeway at the North American College in Rome in this file photo from Nov. 24, 2007. The Catholic Bible is a library of books specifically chosen to reflect Catholic teaching.

## From stories to Scripture

*Biblical scholars trace historical events that shaped  
Catholic Bible*

BY CHAZ MUTH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of  
an ongoing series on the Bible.*

WASHINGTON — When Catholics think of the Bible, they often imagine a leather-bound book.

However, the Catholic version of the Bible is actually a library of books specifically chosen to reflect Catholic

teaching, a collection that began to take shape between A.D. 50 and 400.

"In 393, at the Council of Hippo, there is a list containing 46 Old Testament and 27 New Testament works that constitute the canon adopted by the Catholic tradition," said Benedictine Father Dale Launderville, a professor of

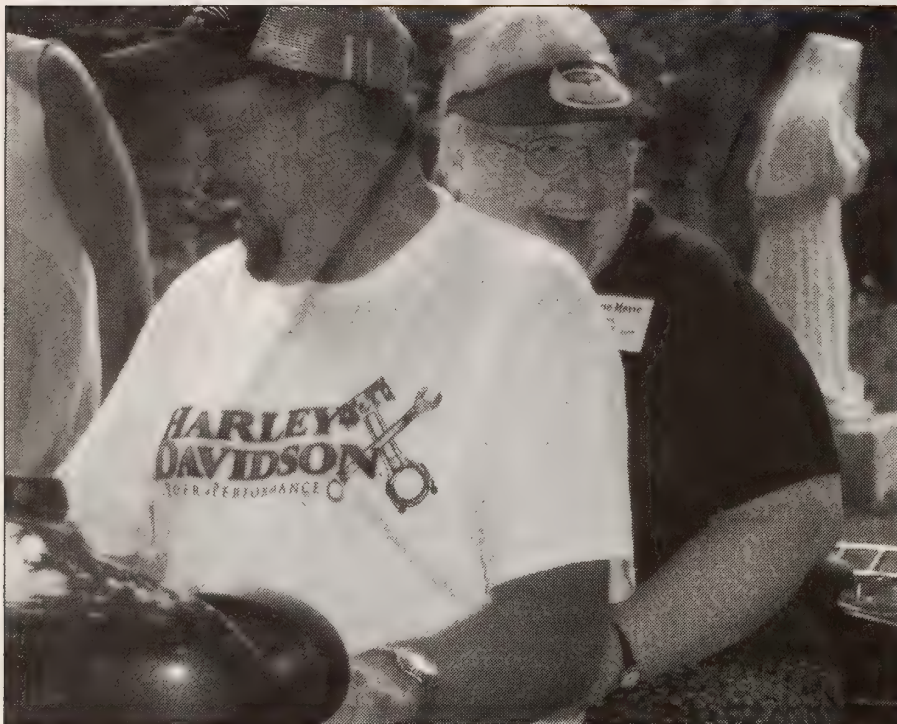
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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## RIDE NICE, PRAY HARD



CNS PHOTO COURTESY SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. JOAN ANTIDA (SEPT)

Sister Anne Marie Baemmert, provincial leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida, takes a ride with a member of the Muskegon Motorcycle Gang at the Bethany Retreat Center in Milwaukee Aug. 28.

## Sisters, motorcycle gang form unlikely bond

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Don't let their veils and name — Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida — deceive you. Members of the Milwaukee order aren't just brides of Christ. They're biker girls.

"We're part of a gang," the sisters laughed over coffee.

They belong to the Sisters of the MMG (Muskegon Motorcycle Gang).

When the Harley-Davidson 100th anniversary celebration rolled around in 2003, the sisters opened up the grounds of their retreat center to Harley riders looking for a place to sleep during the festivities. The Muskegon Motorcycle Gang from Michigan took the sisters up on their offer.

"It was a bit scary," said Sister Ann Josepha Lencioni of the decision. "But the sisters pulled together and felt it would be a good thing for Milwaukee."

For the riders, some of whom had never interacted with a Catholic sister before, the feeling was mutual.

"It wasn't that we were scared; we just wanted to make the nuns as comfortable as possible," said Mike Ankeny of the group, which signed contracts to follow a few house rules such as no smoking indoors. "We're a good mix, even though we're on different parts of the tree."

As Harley upon Harley made its way to the retreat center, the riders and sisters wondered just what they had gotten into.

"I was a little nervous," said rider Patty Matuzeski. "We didn't know what to expect — but it was so much more than we ever could have imagined."

Within minutes, any apprehension had faded. Over the next few days, the riders and sisters were dining with each other, cracking jokes and taking rides on the group's bikes.

"They are such incredible people who are concerned about and love the

sisters," said Toni Vitano, the order's communications director. "Professional people — they're not Hell's Angels, just a group of people who love motorcycles."

While some of the riders are Catholic, others are not, but it is no matter when it comes to the impact the sisters have on the MMG, as evidenced in their exit surveys.

"As someone not raised in a religious environment, after staying with all of you and getting to know all of the sisters I feel a few steps closer to God!" wrote one participant.

After bestowing on them the title Sisters of the MMG and bidding the sisters farewell in 2003, the unlikely friends stayed in touch, writing Christmas cards and e-mails. As bikers rolled into Milwaukee Aug. 30-Sept. 1 for the 105th Harley-Davidson anniversary, the MMG found their way back to the sisters for another weekend of fun and fellowship.

In that sharing, the two groups have found some unexpected similarities.

"We're kind of alike," said Patrick Corbin. "They're stereotyped; we're stereotyped."

The MMG, made up of professionals working in various career paths such as nursing and engineering, also devote their time to serving others, recently raising \$11,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The group plans to do future fundraisers to aid the sisters in their service to the poor.

There are no official membership requirements in the MMG, which is held together by friendship. The gang, 15 years old, numbers around 100 riders.

The sisters, who hold their faith as dearly as the Harley riders hold their bikes, only had one piece of advice for their friends: "Ride nice. Pray hard."

## Residents urged to be patient, kind as all cope with aftermath of Ike

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The retired archbishop of Galveston-Houston told a small congregation gathered for Mass Sept. 14 at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston to stay calm in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and to be friendly to one another, especially as they coped with the challenge of living without electricity.

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza also told them to be grateful the storm, which made landfall Sept. 13, had not taken as many lives as was feared. The Category 2 storm killed 30 people in its path across eight states.

"This calls us in times of great distress to have patience and kindness with one another, to realize we are going to have a long time of endurance and great inconvenience," he said. "But with good humor and God's grace and our public officials ... hopefully the time of great endurance won't be too long."

When Hurricane Ike swept across the Texas coast with its 100 mph winds,

battering waves and torrential rains, it damaged thousands of homes, submerged huge sections of Galveston and left at least 2 million people without power.

Archdiocesan Catholic schools were closed Sept. 15 and were to reopen "according to their readiness and safety," said an announcement. Only essential departments at the chancery were open.

The pastoral center and Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, were closed "until further notice" because of a lack of electricity, and Catholics there were not required to fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation during the Sept. 13-14 weekend.

Catholic Charities agencies set up mobile food centers and community resource sites in southern Texas after the storm to provide food, water, ice, hygiene kits, tarps and cleanup supplies. They also provided gas cards and other aid to assist stranded evacuees in their return home as well as crisis counseling and case management.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Clarke Cochran, a deacon in the Diocese of Lubbock, TX., will discuss *issues Catholics should consider before going to the polls* in a talk at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish Ministry Center. Cochran will offer a pathway through the maze of contending arguments about Catholics and political life. For more information, contact Susan Krasniewski at (704) 362-5047, ext. 210 or [skrasniewski@stgabrielchurch.org](mailto:skrasniewski@stgabrielchurch.org).

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, presents "Choosing Your Path: An Ignatian Retreat for Young Adults (age 18 to 40)" Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the Church). Come and learn how the life of a 16th century saint has relevance for young adults facing a variety of changes and choices in the 21st century world. Mass will be celebrated at the close of the retreat. To register for this free event, e-mail [yamretreat@gmail.com](mailto:yamretreat@gmail.com). Parking is free in The Green parking garage next

to the church. For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — "Autumn Draws Us Inside: Celebrating your Heart and Soul" is the theme for the Monday-morning Adult Spirituality Series held Sept. 22 at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by mid-day prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will take place at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead St., Monday evenings during September. The topic for Sept. 22 will be "Courting God — Dating to Marriage," presented by Judy and Jim Townsend. Judy Townsend is a natural family planning instructor in the Charlotte area. She and her husband Jim will discuss dating to marriage and the obligations the Catholic faith requires in these relationships. RSVP to [jennifer.eues@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.eues@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — *Be Strong: Exercises for Physical and Spiritual Strength*, a new women's ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., combines gentle yoga with prayer, Scripture and spiritual reflection for a unique 90-minute workout that strengthens body and soul. Tuesdays 7:30-9 p.m. and Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. Classes run Sept. 23-Nov. 13. There is no fee, but registration is required. Visit

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Pope appeals to UN for more guarantees of economic justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message to the United Nations, the pope called for stronger efforts to guarantee economic justice around the globe.

Renewing an appeal made during his visit to the United Nations last April, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the international community to return to "the lofty moral vision and the transcendent principles of justice embodied in the United Nations' founding documents."

His comments came in a message to a prayer service Sept. 15, the eve of the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The prayer service took place at the Church of the Holy Family, located close to U.N. headquarters in New York. Attending were diplomats, U.N. officials and religious leaders, including Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York and Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations.

The pope said such moments of reflection and prayer were a way to strengthen diplomats in their commitment to "upholding the dignity of each human person and building a world of ever greater solidarity, freedom and peace."

The pope offered his own prayer that U.N. representatives would receive from God the guidance and strength to carry out urgent tasks "aimed at ensuring that the whole human family shared in the benefits of globalization."

Specifically, he called for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, a plan that aims to cut global poverty in half by 2015, and progress on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The Vatican has strongly supported NEPAD, a program that aims to develop a socio-economic framework for Africa while encouraging African governments to take greater responsibility for the development of their own societies.

## Cardinal: Some not satisfied even after pope's Tridentine Mass decree

ROME (CNS) — Rather than being grateful, some people have reacted to Pope Benedict XVI's wider permission for the celebration of the Mass in the extraordinary form with further demands, said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos.

The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," spoke Sept. 16 at a conference marking the first anniversary of "Summorum Pontificum," the document by which Pope Benedict expanded access to the Mass rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

Cardinal Castrillon, whose commission works with communities using the old rite, said his office continues to receive letters requesting the rite be used not just at one Mass a week but at every Mass, and that such Masses be available not just at one church in a town but at every church.

He said he even got a letter demanding that Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major be dedicated exclusively to the celebration of the Mass in the extraordinary form.

Such people, he said, are "insatiable, incredible."

"They do not know the harm they are doing," Cardinal Castrillon said, adding that when the Vatican does not accept their

demands immediately "they go directly to the Internet" and post their complaints.

The cardinal and officials in his office have been saying for more than a year now that they were preparing detailed instructions responding to questions about how to implement the papal document, which said the Mass in the new Roman Missal, introduced in 1970, remains the ordinary way of Catholic worship.

Cardinal Castrillon's office had completed its work on the instructions and passed the draft on to the pope, who would make the final decision about its publication.

The cardinal said the Mass — in whatever language it is celebrated — must be a service motivated by love and "never a sword" used against other Christians.

By making it easier for priests to celebrate the older liturgy and for the faithful to have access to it, he said, "the vicar of Christ (the pope) was not just exercising his task of governing, but was exercising his task of sanctifying" the people of God.

"When we are before the greatest expression of love for humanity — the Eucharist — how can we fight?" Cardinal Castrillon asked.

www.beststrongministries.org or contact Lisa Tolido at (704) 737-3222.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel School celebrates 50 years. A picnic supper will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, after the 5 p.m. Mass at the St. Gabriel athletic fields. Bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs. RSVP to Sally McArdle at (704) 541-1756 or mcardle@carolina.rr.com, or to Mary Ann Thomas at (704) 366-6985 or ethomas4@carolina.rr.com.

CHARLOTTE — The semi-annual rosary rally will be held Sunday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. Come honor Our Lady by participating in this 35-year tradition. The event will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, will be the homilist. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A Fall Festival will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Sept. 26-27, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. both days, with an Italian Feast Saturday 5-8 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (336) 274-6520, or visit www.olgchurch.org.

GREENSBORO — A Men's Evening of Reflection will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 1, 6:30-9 p.m. The theme of the reflection will be the four objectives of the Catholic family. The event is free and open to all Catholic men. Pizza and refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by a talk 7-9 p.m. in the church. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Landings, a program to help inactive and non-practicing Catholics come back to the church, will meet at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd Ave. NE, Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. There is

no cost to attend. For more information, call the parish office at (828) 327-2341 or e-mail Bonnie Tamrack at tamrack@charter.net.

HICKORY — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya at Steel Creek Park and Campgrounds, 7081 NC Hwy. 181, Sept. 27. The Grand Ultreya begins at 11:30 a.m. with Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at 12 p.m. Bring a covered dish and a 2-liter drink to share for lunch; hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Other activities include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks and hiking/nature trails for children. The event ends at 3:30 p.m. For more information or directions, contact Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The national "40 Days for Life" campaign will be held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or go online to www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.



CNS PHOTO BY ERIK NORIEGA, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

A volunteer helps clean up broken tree limbs and roof shingles from around Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in east Houston Sept. 15, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

## Bishops invite McCain, Obama to meet before election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has extended invitations to Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama to meet before the Nov. 4 election and discuss their views on a variety of election issues.

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said that five bishops who lead various policy committees want to discuss the candidates' views on social policies such as abortion, education, immigration, international affairs and communications.

Any meetings, should they occur, will be private and off the record, Bishop Murphy said.

"This isn't born of any concern or worry or problem," Bishop Murphy said. "We think it would be helpful for us to have that time and we think it would be helpful for the candidates to hear from the teachers of the Catholic Church ... as to what our concerns are."

The invitations are the first in recent memory to seek meetings prior to an election. They were sent prior to USCCB responses earlier in September to two Democrats who support legalized abortion.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 20 (7:15 a.m.)  
Mass for aspirants in permanent diaconate formation program  
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Sept. 20 (4:30 p.m.)  
Mass and groundbreaking ceremony  
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

Sept. 21 (2:30 p.m.)  
Heritage Society Mass  
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

September 24 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte



## Heroes for life



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Erin Gibson, recipient of the "Hero for Life" scholarship, stands with Jason Beckert (left), chair of the scholarship committee, and Seth Dobson, chapter president of Charlotte Right to Life, following the award presentation at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 13. Erin and her sister Katie (not pictured) were awarded the scholarship for their pro-life project "CRIB."

## Teens recognized for pro-life effort

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Two young parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte were recognized recently by the Charlotte Right to Life chapter for their pro-life efforts in the community.

The "Hero for Life" \$2,000 academic scholarship was awarded to Erin and Katie Gibson during a presentation at St. Matthew Church Sept. 13. They were recognized for their project "CRIB" (Caring Relief for Impoverished Babies), through which they assembled 60 layettes containing diapers, clothing and other infant care goods for new mothers in need.

Erin Gibson, a senior at Charlotte Latin School, accepted the award on behalf of herself and her sister Katie, a freshman at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, who was unable to attend.

The Gibsons collected a total of \$8,000 worth of infant care goods from their parish, neighborhood and area schools.

"It just makes you feel better when you help others," said Erin Gibson, "especially a baby that can't take care of itself."

Father Patrick Toole, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church, opened the event

with prayer.

"We are reminded of the little ways that we can live the message of the 'Gospel of Life,'" said Father Toole.

"It's wonderful that we come together and recognize young people in our community who have the courage to spread that message," he said.

Jeannie Wray, executive director of Room at the Inn in Charlotte, spoke at the event. She praised the Gibsons for their courage and moral faith, and their willingness "to stand up and be counted."

The award was presented by Seth Dobson, chapter president of Charlotte Right to Life, and Jason Beckert, chair of the "Hero for Life" scholarship committee.

Students between the ages of 14 and 18 are encouraged to apply for the scholarship, which has been given out annually since 2005. Projects must be pro-life in nature; may be oriented around service, education or prayer; and should demonstrate a component of leadership.

"It is rare to find teenagers who go beyond themselves to help others and help the unborn," said Beckert.

The scholarship is "designed to bring up the next generation of leaders," he said. "We have high hopes for these winners."

## For creative catechesis



COURTESY PH

Connie Milligan accepts a certificate of appreciation on her retirement as director of faith formation at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte Sept. 6. Also pictured: (from left) Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese, who presented the certificate on behalf of Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Bill Milligan, Connie's husband; and Msgr. Richard Bello, pastor of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, who hired Connie 19 years ago while pastor of St. John Neumann Church.

Villapando said the diocesan Office of Faith Formation honored Milligan for her "creativity, for designing an alternate model of family catechesis to reach whole families; her compassion, for creating programs for students with special needs and learners with disabilities; her generosity, in serving diocesan committees and commissions; and her spiritual depth, as seen in the days of recollection she provided."



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## FROM THE COVER

# Workshop explores stewardship as a way of life

STEWARDS, from page 1

supper and presentation on stewardship followed in the parish hall.

"For decades in this one church alone people have come to know Jesus," Father Shawn O'Neal, the pastor, said in his homily.

"May this place be a church of witness and hospitality for 67 times 67 years. ... May people rejoice in the Lord being their foundation," he said.

Father O'Neal's words helped set the tone for Barbara Gaddy's presentation on stewardship. Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, spoke of how stewardship means answering God's call and committing one's life to Christ — not some time in the future but right now.

"In John's Gospel, Jesus recognized the disciples and called them by name because of the gifts they had; they were patient, strong, hardworking," Gaddy said. "We have to recognize that we're called, not as some nameless faces in a crowd, but with our own unique gifts."

We are called, she said, with the same urgency that Jesus called his disciples: "He didn't say, 'When you get your affairs in order or have some extra time, go out and proclaim the Word.'"

This is also true for us, according to Gaddy.

"The disciples weren't called in isolation but as part of a community," Gaddy said. "We are not called as hermits up in the hills. We are called into a community."

"At the same time, the parish, the community, has the responsibility to provide opportunities for you to use your gifts. These gifts are not given to us to hoard but to give away," she said.

Whatever someone does for the community is a way to give back to God for all he has given to that person, said Gaddy.

Everyone can use his or her talents in some way: lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion, altar server, cantor, choir member; he or she can mow the church lawn or the lawn of an elderly or handicapped person, cook for parish events, arrange flowers, serve as a catechist, carpenter, plumber, teach English as a second language or tutor, and so on.

"A real disciple of Jesus Christ doesn't ask, 'What's it going to cost me.' They just do it," Gaddy said.

There is also discipleship through visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes, spending quality time with one's family or volunteering at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

However, there is another aspect of giving time to discipleship — spending time with God. Gaddy cited such ways as regularly attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, partaking in daily prayer and Scripture reading, participating in a prayer chain or group, fasting and spiritual reading.

There are, of course, stumbling blocks to discipleship. Gaddy listed

such obstacles as "spiritual blindness" (not seeing God as the source of all good), not trusting God, secular culture contradicting religious convictions, secular focus on self and pleasure, consumerism, materialism, amoral values, busy schedules and a culture of skepticism and pessimism.

"We need a new mindset," said Allison Wunder, who is about to begin the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to be received into the Catholic Church.

"We need to give up that old mindset we've always had," she said.

Parishioner Kathy Tilly told how lives were changed and parishioners at her former parish achieved a new mindset when the pastor formed teams to visit people with AIDS.

As the parishioners became acquainted with those they visited, they overcame their fear of the AIDS victims, she said.

"Taking a leap of faith," Tilly said, "means putting total trust in God."

Obstacles to discipleship can also be countered through giving back to God with financial contributions to one's parish and community. Some people give the traditional 10 percent; some give more.

"That 10 percent isn't ours to begin with," said Naomi Lowman, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church. "Are we going to give back to God what's God's?"

Gaddy reminded everyone of their purpose, as defined in the old Baltimore Catechism: God made us to know, love and serve him in this world and be happy with him in the next.

"All the things of this world have been given to us to help us meet the end for which we've been created," Gaddy said. "If it doesn't help me, I need to push that aside."

"Living as stewards calls us to that discernment," she said. "I have to ask myself every day: Am I using this in a way that helps me reach the end for which I'm created?"

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail [jnellen@dnet.net](mailto:jnellen@dnet.net).

## 'Stewardship: A Disciple's Response'

The U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship, published in 1992 and reissued in 2002, is based on three convictions:

— Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.

— This commitment is expressed not in a single action but in an entire way of life. It means committing one's very self to the Lord.

— Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be.



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## A year of song



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Singers perform during the sacred music concert at the Eucharistic Congress in 2006. This year's concert, scheduled for Oct. 3, will feature selections spanning the various seasons of the liturgical year.

## Preparation underway for sacred music concert at Eucharistic Congress

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The audience can expect to "travel through time" during this year's sacred music concert at the fourth annual Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Friday, Oct. 3.

The Eucharistic Congress will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3-4. Events on Saturday include a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte.

This year, in accordance with the congress' theme, "It is Christ Whom We Proclaim," "we decided that we were going to choose music that followed the liturgical year, so that there is an understanding that we proclaim Christ throughout the entire year," said Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden and conductor of the sacred music concert.

In the past, songs have been a collection of traditional and contemporary classical pieces and have always been chosen in accordance with the congress' theme.

This year, the song selections will span the various seasons of the liturgical year with pieces representing Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time.

The song selection also will represent various time periods in the history of the Catholic Church.

"We really did try to span all variables of music history," said Gallozzi. "So it's not all one style of music. It spans through time."

The concert of sacred music will kick off the Eucharistic Congress, following a greeting from Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin at 7 p.m. on Friday.

There are approximately 110 choir members, representing approximately 14 parishes throughout the diocese.

Some choir members began practicing as early as June. All of the singers will come together for a group rehearsal the day of the concert.

Organist for the concert will be Larry Stratemeyer, music director at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

A flautist and trumpeter will also accompany.

"Each year this concert is a huge undertaking," said Gallozzi. "It's really a gift of the individual parish singers and instrumentalists to the congress."

"It's our way of expressing our faith," she said.

## To know the faith

Theology expert discusses what divides, unites Christians

BY KATHLEEN  
HEALY SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Catholics must be well-versed in the teachings of their faith in order to evangelize others, said a theology expert.

"We have to know our faith enough. We must show the living, Christian faith in us," said Marcellino D'Ambrosio, co-founder of The Crossroads Initiative, a Catholic renewal and evangelization group.

"The belief that Catholics are superstitious or have no relationship with Jesus can be changed when we live our faith in a vital way," he said. "You don't need to be a theologian to explain the church or express our faith in conversational terms."

D'Ambrosio spoke on the issues that divide Christianity and the visions of the Second Vatican Council at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Sept. 6.

Approximately 200 parishioners and members of other area Christian churches attended the presentation, organized by the parish evangelization committee.

With a doctorate in historical theology from Catholic University of America, D'Ambrosio is an author, columnist and specialist in Scripture interpretation and tradition. He has appeared on EWTN and Catholic radio discussing topics including historical, dogmatic and sacramental theology; evangelization; and ecumenism.

In his talk on "Christianity Divided," D'Ambrosio used historical facts and timelines to delineate the progression of Christianity from the time of the Acts of the Apostles and Sts. Peter and Paul into the 21st century.

He discussed the schisms that arose between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Roman Catholic churches, as well as the introduction of Protestant denominations.

Evaluated from the views of the eras in which they occurred, but with the understanding afforded by the perspective of time, D'Ambrosio focused on the areas uniting Christians. He also noted the areas where no compromise can be afforded in the faith given by Jesus to his people.

"We must not gloss over the issues," D'Ambrosio told the audience. "We must move beyond the caricatures, listen to those of other faiths and be prepared to explain our own faith."

Offering scholarly teaching designed to create understanding and fellowship D'Ambrosio also gave the audience a clear description of the articles of faith upon which the Catholic Church was built.

D'Ambrosio said Vatican II's vision of evangelization and ecumenism continues and is reinforced by the church's ongoing outreach to other religions.

"It's not just doctrines and ideas; it's relationships that need to be repaired," said D'Ambrosio.

"Ecumenism should be an exchange of gifts. Our fundamental faith is expressed in the Creed. Our central unity (with other Christians) is in Jesus Christ and the Trinity."

"We have apostolic leadership. It is our rudder," said D'Ambrosio. "The leadership of the Catholic Church will not bow to societal pressure. We have decisive leadership."

Vatican II, he said, advised Catholics to "honor truth wherever we find it." D'Ambrosio advised the audience to ask questions to learn what others believe so they can introduce them to the Catholic faith through informed conversation, as well as through other individuals, books and events in the church.

"Share your story," he said. "It starts with a smile and loving people. Think of your own story and let people know that Christ is making a difference in your own life."

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FROM THE COVER

# Catholics have obligation to defend church, speaker says

LEADERS, from page 1

organizations, missions, ministries, apostolates and institutions for prayer, networking, strategic planning and talks and panel discussions.

"Through the Catholic Leadership Conference, Catholic leaders have the opportunity to meet and discuss important issues affecting our church," said Gail Buckley, a member of the conference steering committee.

Talks and panel discussion topics included Catholics in politics, the Muslim "threat" to religious liberties around the world and religious liberty in U.S. courts.

The closing Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert F. Vasa of Baker, Ore., and concelebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and other priests.

During his talk, Donohue said there is a "disconnect" between many Catholics and the church.

"Catholics don't experience individual discrimination. They have jobs, their kids are in school, they are doing well," he said.

When the church is attacked in the media, said Donohue, many "Catholics say, 'Let the bishops take care of that.' Well, the bishops need our support."

It was Donohue who led a recent

campaign drawing attention to televised comments by the evangelical minister Rev. John Hagee, who called the Catholic Church "the great whore," an "apostate church," the "Antichrist" and a "false cult system."

The words of the minister, the pastor of the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, became an issue because of his endorsement of a presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain.

Donohue called on the minister to apologize and on May 12, Rev. Hagee sent a letter to Donohue apologizing for any comments he made "that Catholics have found hurtful."

Donohue said after receiving Rev. Hagee's apology that "the case is closed" and, after meeting with him May 15, that he "found him to be sincere, apologetic and friendly."

During his talk at the conference, Donohue explored the "multidimensionality" of anti-Catholicism in the United States. He said some criticism of the Catholic Church is acceptable, so long as it isn't hateful or disdainful.

"Fair criticism is OK ... so long as it doesn't become disparaging or hit below the belt," he said. "No Catholic bashing is allowed."

An example of unacceptable criticism is Catholic liturgy, said Donohue.

"They have to understand that the



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, speaks on the multidimensionalism of anti-Catholicism during the Catholic Leadership Conference at the Hilton Center City Hotel in Charlotte Sept. 11.

church has 'house rules' just like any other religion or institution," he said.

An anti-Catholic attitude against individuals and the church institution was prevalent in the United States for a long time, said Donohue.

"Those were ugly days for America, and they weren't that long ago," he said. But President John F. Kennedy

"changed the mold," said Donohue.

"There's no question that when he became president, something dramatic did happen," he said. "Hatred against individual Catholics declined."

Catholics must be vigilant, he said, and continue to defend their church and its teachings, which tend to "clash with that of contemporary society."

## Conference issues statement on Catholics, voting

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Leadership Conference has issued a statement for Catholic voters, saying Catholics must always be guided in their political participation by the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church.

The statement was issued during the conference's annual gathering in Charlotte Sept. 11-12. The conference previously has issued statements on stem cells, cloning and judicial review.

"Catholics should recognize that not all moral and social issues have equal weight in determining how to cast their vote because there is a hierarchy of values and their application," said the statement on voting.

The taking of innocent life through abortion or euthanasia, or at the embryonic stage for medical research, can never be supported, it said. These

actions are "intrinsically evil and violate the natural law, since they always involve the direct and intentional taking of innocent human life. Such acts are always to be avoided and abhorred in positive law and public policy."

Catholic voters are "morally obliged" to base their decisions "on issues which admit of no prudential judgment, such as direct abortion, the obligation to protect marriage between a man and a woman," it said. While "there is no single 'Catholic' position on issues like immigration, taxes, education and delivery of medical care ... there are Catholic principles, such as the dignity of the human person and fundamental rights, which should always be considered." These principles "are set forth in the body of church teaching referred to as the 'social doctrine' of the Catholic Church."

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# During trip, pope shows many dimensions of his ministry

FRANCE, from page 1

Western civilization to 700 scholars and intellectuals.

He then switched gears and led vespers in Notre Dame Cathedral with priests and religious, emphasizing that while their ranks may be thinning their role in the church has lost none of its value and, indeed, is irreplaceable.

Finally, he stepped outside and energized a waiting crowd of 40,000 young people, drawing roars of approval when he said the church needs them and has confidence in them. It was a whirlwind beginning and demonstrated a remarkable pastoral versatility on the part of the 81-year-old pontiff.

The next day, after celebrating Mass for a larger-than-expected crowd in Paris, he went to Lourdes and showed another side of his role as universal pastor — a Marian side.

It's no secret that, as a theologian and bishop, Pope Benedict was not always comfortable with Marian devotion and claims of apparitions. But over the years he has widened his views, saying in 2002 that, "the older I am, the more important the mother of God is to me."

So at Lourdes pilgrims heard the scholarly pope preach the value of "humble and intense prayer" like the rosary. He told his listeners that devotion to Mary was not a form of "pious infantilism" but an expression of spiritual maturity.

When he took a drink from the Lourdes spring that many pilgrims believe to be the font of miraculous cures, he was demonstrating that the Christian lives by simple signs and symbols as well as by theological ideas.

The pope's trip to Lourdes was bound to be compared to Pope John Paul II's moving visit to the shrine in 2004. Ailing and unsteady, the late pope had to ask for help on the altar; it was his last foreign trip.

Pope Benedict was not a personal witness to suffering like his predecessor, but he left no doubt that ministry to the sick is a benchmark of Catholicism.

At his Mass with thousands of sick people Sept. 15, the final day of his visit, he thanked Catholics at Lourdes and all over the world who volunteer their time and effort to help the infirm.

That highlighted a key theme of Pope Benedict's pontificate, one he has underlined in encyclicals but which is sometimes overlooked: that personal charity — love in action — is the ultimate expression of faith in Jesus Christ.

Another difference between Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul surfaced during the visit.

The late pope, on his first trip to France in 1980, sternly critiqued the French drift from the faith, asking Catholics, "France, the eldest daughter of the church, are you faithful to the promise of your baptism?"

Pope Benedict took a softer approach, alluding to pastoral problems but keeping the focus on the positive — for example,

the enthusiastic crowd of 260,000 people at his Paris liturgy.

In his final talk to French Catholics, he praised them for their "firm faith" and said he had been likewise encouraged by the strong turnout of youths at a Paris vigil.

Where he offered more instructional advice was in his talk to French bishops.

He touched on a sore point when he urged the bishops to show flexibility toward traditionalists who want to take advantage of his 2007 rule change on the use of the Mass in the extraordinary form, the Mass rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

As a whole, though, the pope framed his message in optimistic terms. Whether talking to politicians, pastoral workers, scholars, the sick or the young, he emphasized that the church is at home in France, and its voice — including the voice of prayer — must continue to be heard.



CNS PHOTO BY CHARLES PLATON, REUTERS

Thousands of young people watch Pope Benedict XVI on a giant screen outside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris Sept. 12. The pope was delivering a speech at the College des Bernardins.



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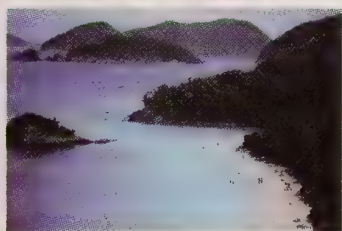


CNS PHOTO BY REGIS DUIGNAULT, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI prepares to anoint a nun with holy oil during a Mass for the sick at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes, France, Sept. 15. The pope was in Lourdes primarily to mark the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

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# A source of hope

*Thousands of sick flock to Lourdes to see pope, pray to Mary*

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOURDES, France — From an altar ringed with wheelchairs and stretchers, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged thousands of sick people at Lourdes to seek solace in Mary's smile and maternal love.

Their devotion to Mary at a time of need is not "pious infantilism" but a sign of the highest spiritual maturity, the pope said Sept. 15.

It was the pontiff's last day in France and he dedicated it to the ill and infirm, who packed Rosary Square at the Marian sanctuaries in the Pyrenees town of Lourdes.

The pope administered the sacrament of the anointing of the sick to 10 people during the liturgy. Addressing each by name, he gently anointed their foreheads and hands with oil and invoked the mercy of the Lord.

The group receiving the sacrament included men and women, young and old, who met for the first time before the liturgy. As the youngest among them, a German girl, sat waiting for the Mass to begin, an elderly French nun in a wheelchair next to her reached out and held her hand.

Behind them stretched hundreds of the distinctive covered blue wheelchairs used to transport many of the sick at Lourdes. Most were there for the pope, but all had come to pray to Mary.

"I get a great feeling of well-being here. I'm in touch with God through Mary, right here in Lourdes," said Frank Nelson, a 72-year-old Irishman, who has been coming to the sanctuary since 1948.

Seated in a wheelchair next to others in his pilgrim group, he added that he also has come for "some healing," after undergoing two hip operations, stomach surgery and treatment for prostate cancer.

In his sermon, the pope said devotion to Mary can help break the isolation of suffering. Far from being an act of "outmoded sentimentality," he said, turning to Mary demonstrates that people "know precisely how to acknowledge their weakness and their poverty before God."

He recalled that St. Bernadette Soubirous, who experienced visions of Mary 150 years ago in Lourdes, first noticed Mary's smile. This smile remains a source of hope for many who endure illness and distress, he said.

"Unfortunately, we know only too well: The endurance of suffering can upset life's most stable equilibrium, it can shake the firmest foundations of confidence," he said.

Sometimes it can even lead people to despair of the value of life, he said.

"There are struggles that we cannot sustain alone, without the help of divine grace. When speech can no longer find the right words, we need a loving presence," he said.

Mary's smile offers strength to fight against sickness, but also the grace to accept "without fear or bitterness" the hour of one's death, he said.

The pope, who visited Lourdes as

**"I'm in touch with God through Mary, right here in Lourdes."**

— Frank Nelson

a cardinal in 1981, also spoke of the attraction of Lourdes' spring water, which many pilgrims bathe in or drink in search of a miraculous cure.

The church has recognized as miracles 67 cures attributed to Mary's intercession at Lourdes, but pilgrims believe many more undocumented miracles also have occurred.

The pope did not talk about miracles, but said the spring water at Lourdes is a sign of a spiritual reality that has helped many pilgrims.

"By immersing themselves in the baths at Lourdes, how many people have discovered and experienced the gentle maternal love of the Virgin Mary, becoming attached to her in order to bind themselves more closely to the Lord," he said.

The pope made a point of thanking the many people who accompany the sick to Lourdes and help care for them during their stay. These volunteers "are the arms of the servant church," and so are the many Catholics around the world who regularly visit the sick, he said.

Before the Mass, the pope continued his "jubilee pilgrimage" in Lourdes, stopping to pray at a hospital chapel where St. Bernadette made her first Communion.



CNS PHOTO BY PHILIPPE NOISETTE, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Grotto of the Apparitions at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes, France, Sept. 13. The pope traveled to Lourdes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous.



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Books on young adult Catholics offer hopeful look at church's future

REVIEWED BY VICKI LOPZE-KALEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

What's the future of the Catholic Church in the U.S.? Are the treasures of Catholic prayer and worship and theology (including Catholic social teaching) put into practice or even understood by most Catholics?

Will misinformation, uninspiring liturgy, discouraged clergy, scandal and division from within lead youths elsewhere? How can we draw and nurture the faith of young adults to lead the church and transform a world in need of the Gospel in word and action?

These questions are addressed to varying degrees in three books of interest to parish ministers and people in the pew.

In "Seeds of Hope: Young Adults and the Catholic Church in the United States," theologian Tim Muldoon asks what kind of church we are inviting our young people to join.

With honesty and a love for the church, he holds great hope that we can address their concerns and build a church that can transform the world.

U.S. Catholics and parish leaders will find many challenges to our comfortable worship, attitudes and lifestyle if we take Muldoon's theological insights and sociological research to heart.

For example, he challenges theologians and others to put aside divisive differences and promote a theology that can transform people's daily lives; he exhorts liturgists to educate people in the pew to use our religious imagination and embody the kingdom of God every Sunday; he addresses the hunger of young adults for education, for spirituality and a personal and social conscience that make sense in today's culture; he challenges us all to accept the discipline of religion as a means to transform our lives and the world.

Ecumenism, moral authority, sexuality and ethnic inclusiveness get his attention as he challenges the church to believe that what Jesus taught is true: We are his presence in the world.

He includes thought-provoking references to the rise of the Third World church, to Hispanic Catholics and to the cultural and religious changes in Africa and Asia. Most of all, Muldoon's overview of Catholic theology and sociological commentary can help us readjust our priorities to build up the body of Christ within the church and in the world.

Chris Cuddy and Peter Ericksen, editors of "I Choose God: Stories from Young Catholics," give us 21 stories written by young adults about their dramatic journeys of faith filled with confusion about faith and morals.



Readers will be saddened by stories of drugs, alcohol, exploitative relationships, abortion, pornography, grief, divorce and the serious temptations that afflict youths in our affluent culture.

By the grace of the Holy Spirit and the presence of well-formed Catholic youths and mentors, these thoughtful writers each find a spiritual home in the Catholic Church.

This short volume is interesting reading to parents of young adults, pastors and young adult ministers, and leaders of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in parish or campus ministry settings.

The writers repeatedly give high praise for their experiences with World Youth Day, youth rallies, pastorally gifted Catholic youth ministers and college theology professors.

In "Catholic and Loving It," Sabitha Narendran and Andrew Salzmann describe a hunger for tradition as an issue for young adults.

Narendran and Salzmann present a useful and readable volume for any Catholic who wants to rediscover some of the rich devotions that have been part of Catholic piety for generations.

In one user-friendly volume, they include seasonal prayers and practices, traditions for the home, practices and prayers related to Mary and the saints, and much more. Their book offers a lot to new Catholics, young families, catechists or older Catholics who want to renew in their lives the rhythm of days and seasons.

The authors do not clearly differentiate, however, which practices are most central to Catholic life (such as Advent and Lent, sacramental celebrations and feasts) and which can become shallow and even superstitious if given too much value in daily life (such as indulgences).

With a careful eye for a balanced theology, readers of this book will find practical suggestions for reclaiming many prayerful Catholic traditions. Hopefully, they seek to learn more about our rich spiritual tradition.

*Lopez-Kaley has 22 years of experience as a catechetical leader. She works as a freelance writer and teacher in spirituality and nutrition in Quincy, Ill.*

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 28, 2007

Sept. 28, Twenty-sixth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28  
Psalm 25:4-9
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11  
Gospel) Matthew 21:28-32

### In biblical terms, complexities of injustice not so clear-cut

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

One day when I was about 9 years old, I remember being given the responsibility of looking after my baby sister. She had just learned to walk, and I was leading her from one room to another.

I guess I didn't sufficiently account for her underdeveloped coordination: I pulled her too quickly around a corner, and she stumbled and hit her head on the corner of a television console, thus acquiring a large, discolored goose egg on her forehead.

Although caused accidentally, the swelling happened so rapidly and we were all so frightened that in the heat of the moment I was held responsible.

I already felt terrible about my sister's injury; I also felt that my subsequent punishment was more than a little unfair. In my childish, black-and-white way of thinking, I struggled to

make sense of it but found myself unable to find any justice in the situation.

Today's readings are about two concepts that often are confused when used in reference to God's interaction with human beings: fairness and justice.

Natural disasters occur, randomly destroying the lives and property of people who don't deserve such loss. The unfairness of it causes some people to helplessly shake their fists at God and place the blame on divine injustice.

Others, not wishing to fault a sovereign God for such calamity, choose the opposite extreme and judge that all human tragedy is somehow directly caused by human failure of some sort.

Still others, seeking middle ground, embrace the doctrine of original sin as an explanation for the world's evil and all its consequences.

When viewed in biblical terms, the problems of evil, fairness and injustice are not so clear-cut. Their complexities continually invite us to wrestle with them.

Yet the kind of justice proper to God is always biblically linked with a divine attribute that transcends our inadequate, human ideas of fairness: God's boundless mercy, culminating in the self-giving of Jesus.

Like the admission of sinners and prostitutes to the kingdom of heaven, God's mercy doesn't always make sense; even so, we are called to imitate and exercise that same mercy in our dealings with one another.

### Questions:

Can you recall a time when you were blamed or punished unfairly? How can you demonstrate God's mercy to someone who doesn't "deserve" it?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 21-27

**Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Matthew 20:1-16; **Monday**, Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday (St. Pio of Pietrelcina)**, Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday**, Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday**, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (Sts. Cosmas and Damian)**, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday (St. Vincent de Paul)**, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8, Luke 9:43-45.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 28-OCT. 4

**Sunday (Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32; **Monday (St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael)**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; **Tuesday (St. Jerome)**, Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux)**, Job 9:1-12, 14-16, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (The Guardian Angels)**, Exodus 23:20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Friday**, Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Francis of Assisi)**, Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17, Luke 10:17-24.

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## U.S. movie about military's bomb dismantlers wins Signis film prize

VENICE, Italy (CNS) — A U.S. movie about a military unit that dismantles bombs in Iraq, "The Hurt Locker," won the grand prize at the Venice Film Festival from Signis, the international Catholic organization for film and video.

It was the organization's 60th annual film jury.

The film stars Sam Reford, Jeremy Renner, Guy Pearce, David Morse and Ralph Fiennes, who starred in the 1995 movie "Strange Days," also by Kathryn Bigelow, director of "The Hurt Locker."

The Signis jury, in announcing the awards Sept. 5, called the new film "an uncompromising approach to the Iraq War and its consequences seen through the experience of the bomb diffusion specialists for whom war is an addiction rather than a cause."

"The director, Kathryn Bigelow, challenges the audience's view of war in general and the current war in particular because it demonstrates the struggle between violence to the body and psychological alienation," said the Signis jury.

Bigelow's last feature film was 2002's "K-19: The Widowmaker," about the malfunctioning of the Soviet Union's first nuclear-powered submarine on its maiden voyage and the crew's efforts to

avoid a nuclear disaster.

The Signis jury also gave a commendation to another American film, "Vegas: Based on a True Story," a comedy written and directed by Iranian-born filmmaker Amir Naderi.

The jury called this "small-budget picture of a family on the periphery of Las Vegas, struggling with gambling addiction and their marginalized life ... an allegory of futile obsession and greed."

A second commendation was given to Haile Gerima's Ethiopian film "Teza," a movie about the return of an African intellectual to his native country during the repressive Marxist regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The returnee finds his country in turmoil, with a military junta that uses scientists for its own political ends; he is faced with a choice to make a life from the fragments that lay around him or to give in to the violence.

"Teza" is "a reflection in art-cinema style on Ethiopia's recent past and the hopes and challenges for its future," the jury said. "It highlights the conflict between ideology and personal lives."

The president of the seven-member international jury was U.S. Sister Rose Pacatte, a member of the Daughters of St. Paul.

## 'Fireproof' will warm the heart

BY HARRY FORBES  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — You fireproof your home; why not your marriage?

Such is the obvious but unobjectionable theme of "Fireproof" (Goldwyn), a modest but heartwarming drama from Sherwood Pictures, the Albany, Ga., church-based studio that made "Flywheel" and "Facing the Giants," all on remarkably small budgets with a largely volunteer cast and crew.

Their latest concerns a small-town fire captain, Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron, the film's only name performer), whose marriage to Catherine (Erin Bethea), the PR director at the local hospital, is on the rocks.

They've lost patience with one another. Catherine accuses him of spending all his time looking at "trash" (i.e., pornography) on the Internet. He, in turn, complains she no longer shops or cooks for him.

He's saving up for a boat; she'd like to use that money to make improvements on the house. Each feels disrespected.

Under the guidance of his born-again father, John (Harris Malcom), whose own marriage to Caleb's mother, Cheryl (Phyllis Malcom), had once been in trouble, Caleb reluctantly promises his father he'll follow the instructions in a journal called "The Love Dare," which saved the older couple's marriage, in order to rescue his own seven-year union.

Catherine remains obstinately unyielding, and disparages Caleb's sincere proffering of morning coffee, flowers, a candlelight dinner and sickbed duty, thinking he's merely buttering her up for better divorce terms.

She's further reluctant to reconcile, as she's in thrall to the smarmy attentions of Dr. Gavin Keller (Perry Revell) at work.

The film is nicely if simply shot by directors Alex and Stephen Kendrick, though their script is not unlike a TV soap opera. The message that marriage is grounded in the knowledge that God loves us with all our faults — and so should we love our spouse — is incontrovertible, but

it's clear the story is merely a vehicle for conveying that message.

The script would also seem to imply that only committed Christians can have successful marriages, whereas from a Catholic perspective, marriage is a natural union as well as a sacramental one among the baptized.

Caleb gets more reinforcement from Michael (Ken Bevel), his best friend at the firehouse, who stands in contrast to the others there: the unenlightened doubter Terrell (Eric Young), who believes we're all "going into the ground," and braggart engine driver Wayne (Stephen Dervan).

Former "Growing Pains" star Cameron is fine, while the mostly nonprofessional supporting cast and production values are surprisingly capable. There are even a couple of fairly ambitious action sequences — a car stuck on the train tracks with an oncoming train, and of course a climactic fire — both competently executed.

Though strongly evangelical, rather than Catholic, in tone — there are no references to the sacramental nature of marriage, and the approach to conversion is shown to be typically instantaneous — the stress on permanence, fidelity, forgiveness and reconciliation (as well as faith in a loving God) resonates well not only with Catholic belief and teaching but also with the pro-marriage campaign of the U.S. bishops.

Details of the campaign can be found online at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org).

Predictable though the film's outcome is, you'll be forgiven for a lump in the throat by the time of the sentimental fade-out.

The film contains domestic discord, extramarital flirtation and pornography references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

*Forbes is director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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# Biblical scholars trace historical events that shaped Catholic Bible

BIBLE, from page 1

theology at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.

"There was never an official decree on the books in the canon until (the Council of) Trent in 1546," he said.

That point is significant because the church teaches that the Holy Spirit worked through the hierarchy and the faithful to sort out which books proved vital to the faith of the communities, Father Launderville said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

The books stood the test of time and came to be regarded as fundamental tools in identifying Catholics as a faith community, he said.

"The Bible contains the records of 4,000 years of Judeo-Christian culture," said Franciscan Father Jack Wintz, a well-known Catholic writer, who has served in various editorial roles at the St. Anthony Messenger and Catholic Update.

"Even before writing materials were invented, the many stories included in our Bible were handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. We call this 'oral tradition,'" he said.

"As time passed, the ancient Israelites began to commit their community's stories to writing," he added.

## Varying versions

The earliest written stories were about the deeds of kings and by the 10th century B.C. they were written as lyrics to songs, Father Wintz said.

After the Reformation established the Protestant movement throughout Europe in the 1500s, Protestants of all denominations instituted their own Bible, or collection of writings.

"Basically, the difference between a 'Catholic' and a 'Protestant' Bible is limited to the contents of the Old Testament," said Father Murray Watson, a biblical scholar at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario.

"Catholic Bibles contain seven books which traditional Protestant Bibles do not," he said.

He said those books are "Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach — also called Ecclesiasticus — Baruch, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees. Catholics use versions of two Old Testament books, Daniel and Esther, which are considerably longer than the version in a standard Protestant Bible," said Father Watson.

"Most Eastern Orthodox churches use a longer one, similar to the Catholic Old Testament, and some of them actually add several other books as well," he said.

These seven books are called "apocryphal," or hidden, by most Protestants, who don't consider them "as inspired," and do not include them in their Bibles, Father Watson said.

However, Catholics do consider these books inspired, and refer to them as "deuterocanonical," or belonging to

a "second list of canonical/approved books," since their status was debated longer than most other books, which were on the "first list," he said.

The difference is rooted in the fact that well before the time of Jesus there were two different versions of the Jewish Bible in circulation and used by Jews in different parts of the Mediterranean, Father Watson said.

"One of them seems to have been in Hebrew/Aramaic, and was used almost exclusively in the Holy Land, whereas another version translated into Greek was used by most of the Jews of the Diaspora, the Jewish community outside of the Holy Land, whose daily language of communication was Greek," he said.

"The Greek translation, which was called the Septuagint, had a number of books in it that were not contained in the Hebrew/Aramaic version. However, since the vast majority of Jews at that time lived outside the Holy Land, the version they were most familiar with was the Greek version," he said.

## Books of the Bible

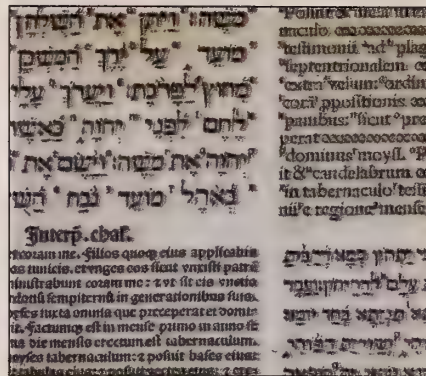
Church beliefs and practices under attack by Protestant reformers included purgatory, judgment, devotion to Mary, the intercession of the saints, most of the sacraments, the mandatory celibacy requirement for its clergy, and the authority of the pope.

So, they needed a Bible with Scriptures that would reflect their traditions, Father Watson said.

Over time, the Catholic hierarchy, too, chose Scriptures that best reflected their interpretation of the true word of God.

Though the Catholic Bible began to take shape centuries earlier, the foundation became more concrete during the Council of Rome in 382, when the church decided what it should accept and what it should reject.

This body determined and Pope Damasus I decreed the order of the Old Testament should begin with the book of



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A page from the early 16th-century Complutensian Polyglot Bible is pictured at the Library of Congress in Washington. Considered a masterpiece of Catholic scholarship, the text is a record of the more significant translations in the development of Bible.

Genesis, and include Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua (Son of) Nave, Judges, Ruth, Paralipomenon (1 and 2 Chronicles), Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Canticle of Canticles (Song of Songs), Wisdom, and Ecclesiasticus.

The order of the historical books was proclaimed to start with Job, followed by Tobit, two books of Esdras (Ezra and Nehemiah), Esther, Judith and two books of Maccabees.

During the Council of Hippo in 393, it was decided that besides the canonical Scriptures nothing under the name of divine Scripture should be read in church.

Over the years other books were added to the canon and deleted, and in 408 Pope Innocent I issued an opinion that resulted in the Bible used by

Catholics today, which also includes five books of Solomon and 16 books from the prophets.

"For Catholics, the Bible and the church are two interrelated expressions of God's communication to God's people, and they depend on each other," Father Watson said.

"Today, these differences are largely being overcome," he continued, "since more and more editions of the Bible are being published in 'ecumenical editions,' which incorporate all the books sacred to Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christians, while placing the deuterocanonicals in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments, thus allowing people to choose whether or not they wish to read them."

In addition, almost every major English translation of the Bible today is produced by an interdenominational team of scholars, which includes Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and, in most cases, Jewish members as well, he said.

"In terms of 'Catholic' Bibles today, almost any mainstream Bible translation is appropriate for Catholics to read and study, provided, of course, it includes the deuterocanonical books," Father Watson said.

"Among the more popular Bible versions for Catholics would be the New American Bible, the New Jerusalem Bible and the New Revised Standard Bible," he said.

"Many Catholics also read the Good News Bible, which is published by the United Bible Societies, and today has a Catholic version available," he added.



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## Three's company



COURTESY PHOTO

Kristen Sedam, McKenna Dvorak and Zack Fishel, kindergarten students at St. Ann School in Charlotte, form triangles Sept. 10. The students learned about triangles and worked in groups of three to make the three-sided shape.

## Kids helping kids



COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Carmelita Hagan, volunteer coordinator at Catherine's House in Belmont, is pictured with children — two of whom are students of St. Gabriel School in Charlotte — who presented \$543.83 for the ministry Aug. 14. Catherine's House, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, provides transitional housing for women and children who are homeless.

The children (from left: Sophie Tan, Ava Tan, Alex Tan and Mason Petchel) were among the "Kids Helping Kids" group who sold lemonade and cookies in August to raise funds to purchase school supplies and back-to-school clothes for a first-grade student living at Catherine's House. The funds also were used to purchase baby items for ministry residents.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Justice flows like a river

*Social justice, charity must be considered by Catholics*

Call me "Secondhand Rose" if you must, but nothing pleases me more than finding a used item at a great price. It stretches the budget, it's environmentally healthy and, if you don't get carried away, it's great sport.

I should get one of those "I brake for garage sales" bumper stickers. Lead me into a nice secondhand store when I have time to browse and I'm a happy woman.

So it was the other day when I came home with a linen blouse from a used clothing store. It was an excellent brand, one that carries a respectable price tag when new.

It was in like-new condition, a soft-apricot color and a perfect fit. And it was five bucks! What more could this bargain hunter want?

As I carried my "find" into the house, I stopped to get the mail, and once inside the kitchen, I sifted through it, glancing at the latest issue of Sacred Ground, the newsletter from the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging.

My family has sponsored a boy in Venezuela, Jose Gustavo, through this organization for a few years, ever since a priest spoke at our parish and signed people up.

I noticed the story of a young father in the Philippines who supports his family by operating a tricycle taxi, a little motorized vehicle jerry-rigged with a side car to haul one or two people.

The man, a handsome guy in jeans and a bright T-shirt, stood proudly by his taxi, looking like any guy you'd see cheering on his kids at the soccer field.

The story said a Filipino expression applies to a day laborer like him: "Work one, eat one." It means that the man, who of course doesn't belong to a union or get any paid days off, must work one day to provide just the amount of money needed to sustain his family the next.

And what does this taxi driver earn to make ends meet? After he pays for his fuel, the price of which has been rising in the Philippines just like everywhere else, he makes \$5 daily for his family's needs.

### For the Journey

EFFIE  
CALDAROLA  
CNS COLUMNIST



Five bucks. I looked down at my linen shirt lying on the cabinet right next to the story. Suddenly it was a luxury item, this man's daily bread, purchased on a whim.

Throughout the past century, the Catholic Church in myriads of official documents has come to cast its vision on justice in a world where some people have so much less than others.

Pope Leo XIII got the ball rolling when he wrote "Rerum Novarum" in 1891. In it he talked about working conditions and laborers' rights. "Rerum Novarum" introduced new conversation into the church's discussion.

Previously, charity had been our response to the poor of the world — giving alms to the poor, aiding those in need.

Certainly charity remains a good and necessary thing. But for more than 100 years, the church, through encyclicals, the writings of the Second Vatican Council and other writings, has educated us to look at institutional reasons for poverty, what Pope John Paul II called "the structures of sin" in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis."

But how educated are we? Many have called Catholic social justice teaching "our best kept secret." We don't talk about it much. Charity is rarely controversial, but trying to figure out the hard truth of justice can be a minefield.

In this election year, Americans need to look at their country and the world and ask how they can meet the challenge the church has given us to find "a preferential option for the poor."

## Catechetical Sunday

*World needs intentional Catholics committed to Christ*

Ascending the stairs to the friars' rooms in the monastery of St. Mark in Florence, Italy, the visitor is struck by the vision of the world famous fresco of the Annunciation at the top of the stairs. There on the wall is the often-seen, world-famous depiction of Blessed Fra Angelico, the Dominican friar and artist. For more than 500 years that painting has been catechizing everyone who reached the top of those stairs. The subdued paints with the soft hues indicate the delicacy of the moment of the Incarnation, the moment of God taking on our flesh, the moment God "dwelt among us" (pitched his tent), as St. John relates.

Our Lady has her head bowed in humility to God, her arms crossed as if to cradle the infant in her womb. The Archangel Gabriel's head is inclined in respect to both Our Lady and the infant Son. At that moment, the nascent church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is likewise present and deserving of respect.

The visitor is at once catechized with the Word of God. This is the theme for this Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 21: "The Word of God in the life and mission of the church."

Msgr. Frances Kelley defines catechesis as "the transmission of God's Word to invite people to personal faith." Seeing the fresco of the Annunciation, one is given the message of the Incarnation, the intellect is drawn into thinking about the historical event and the will must either chose to believe the truth presented in the fresco, reject that truth or simply ignore the truth.

But catechesis has nonetheless happened; the content of the Catholic faith has been transmitted and one is invited to personal faith. Every catechetical moment does the same thing.

Catechetical Sunday is a day to emphasize the essential evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church: "to hand on what has been handed on" to us, to paraphrase St. Paul.

The church teaches that parents are the first educators of their children under the direction of their pastors. This education entails the entire spectrum of all fields of discipline and activities, including religious education, as they are all related and lead to a proper understanding of the truth of God himself.

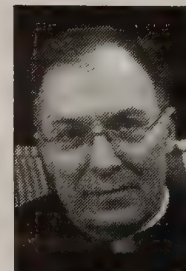
On Catechetical Sunday, the church desires to emphasize the importance of the stewardship of God's Word by all who are "catechists" — and every member of the Mystical Body is a catechist.

Today, however, the church especially accents those who are giving their time and talents to teach religion in special programs and classes in all our educational institutions, programs and settings. All of this is done in support of the parents, who are the primary educators of the children, under the direction of their pastors.

Why does the church spend so

### Guest Column

FATHER ROGER  
ARNSPARGER  
GUEST COLUMNIST



much effort in catechesis? Why do we have Catholic schools, faith formation programs, home schools, campus ministries, adult education in its many forms, youth ministry and our other avenues of catechesis?

The reason is this: "... the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity" (Pope John Paul II, CT, 5).

Catechesis is about making saints. It is about helping our students come into an "intimacy" with Jesus; not just knowing about him, but knowing him; not just loving him distantly, but being in love with him. Catechesis has one purpose then: to offer the way to eternal life.

To be effective in our care for catechesis, each of us in the church must pledge to live the spiritual life. Our devout participation in Sunday and holy day Mass, our frequent confessions, daily prayers and spiritual readings are essential to the project of our Catholic schools.

We will only be as effective as is our commitment to our spiritual life.

The outcome of our catechetical programs is evident and therefore measurable. We can ask: Are our students convinced of the truths of the Catholic Church (which is the bearer of the Gospel), and do they practice their faith in their parish and diocese? Are they intentional Catholics?

The world needs intentional, informed, zealous Catholics — men and women committed to Christ and his message of truth about humanity and the world.

Many intentional Catholics are coming forth from our catechetical programs. They have a Catholic worldview and know the principles of making good decisions, which will make good memories and help them achieve citizenship in heaven. These are decisions based on the truth about God and the dignity of man from conception to natural death.

Our thanks go to all those catechists who assist us to remember and believe the person of the Annunciation — the Word of God in the life and mission of the church. Catechesis humbles us as Mary and the Archangel Gabriel were humbled at those words: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us! God 'pitched his tent' and lives among us. He invites us to prepare to 'pitch our tent' and live with him in eternal life."

Father Arnsperger is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Labor of love

*Seeing work as a journey of discovery that makes us fully alive*

When we think of the people that are most alive, it is those who love their work. I think of the woman who cuts my hair, a woman named Carmen from Puerto Rico who has a small unisex shop in my neighborhood.

She recently returned from a vacation cruise and said she could hardly wait to get back to work. She literally dances around you as she does her job.

I think also of Maryknoll missionary priest Robert McCahill, who has worked for decades in Bangladesh.

What a joy it is to hear him talk about the life he shares with the poor, even living in a thatched roof hut as they do, and peddling a bicycle through the poorest neighborhoods seeking out the sick, sometimes even carrying them to a clinic or hospital.

I think too of craftsmen whose works proclaim their industry, love and dedication decades and even centuries after they passed from this life.

Genesis tells us that after God created the earth and all its elements and life forms he "looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good" (1:31).

It is common, however, to see work as God's punishment for the disobedience

of Adam and Eve. And certainly the Scriptures provide justification in God's words to Adam:

"Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. ... By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the ground" (Gn 3:17, 19).

But our first parents already had a job before they sinned; it was not as if God had consigned them to a life of idleness. He had given them the Garden of Eden and entrusted them "to cultivate and care for it" (Gn 2:15).

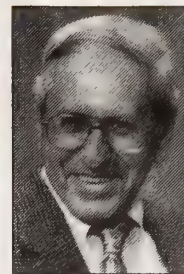
Their failure was similar to many of ours today. Failing to see the challenge, do our homework, work hard enough, persevere. Instead of patiently working to discover the infinite marvels of God's creation, they thought they could gain wisdom the easy way: by eating the forbidden fruit.

What they did is analogous to today's get-rich-quick schemes, and all the self-illusion that short-circuits the sweat and tears.

Yet the Garden of Eden did not disappear with the disobedience of Adam and Eve. It is with us still, the entire universe in which we live, containing all the wonders that humankind has

## Seeking Life

MOISES SANDOVAL  
CNS COLUMNIST



discovered and has yet to discover — in mathematics, medicine, science, philosophy, psychology, theology, social science and much more.

There are no limits to what we can learn. To be alive, then, is to see work not as cruel fate but as a journey of discovery.

That perspective may be hard to sell to a factory worker who endures the monotony of an assembly line or the laborer who wields a pick and shovel.

Yet even they can rejoice in the shelter, food and education their labors provide for their families. And if our workday does not yield satisfaction, perhaps we can find it in work we do in our off hours, in our homes or our communities.

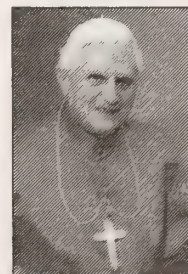
I often see joy in the enthusiasm of immigrants cutting lawns or shoveling snow.

Implicit in the words "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Mt 25:34) is the judgment: "Your work was good."

## Cross shows true love does not exist without suffering, pope says

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God's love poured out on humanity through the cross of Jesus offers healing and salvation to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Sept. 17 weekly general audience, the pope reflected on his Sept. 12-15 trip to France, which he said had brought him many blessings.

"In Lourdes, at the school of Mary, the first and perfect disciple of the crucified one, pilgrims learn to consider the crosses of their lives in the light of the glorious cross of Christ," he said.

"The cross reminds us that true love does not exist without suffering; there is no gift of life without pain," he said. "Many learn that truth in Lourdes, which is a school of faith and hope because it also is a school of charity and of service to one's brothers and sisters."

*Here is the text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Our encounter today gives me the opportunity to retrace the steps of my recent pastoral visit to France. After a warm welcome in Paris, I met with men and women from the world of culture, with whom I reflected on the monastic ideal of seeking God — *quaerere Deum* — as the bedrock of European culture.

I wished to emphasize that meditation on the Scriptures opens our minds and hearts to the Logos, God's creative reason in the flesh.

In the magnificent Cathedral of Notre Dame, I gathered with bishops, priests, religious and seminarians, sharing with them the treasures of the Holy Spirit and the cross. My brief stop at the Institute de France was followed by the joyful Eucharistic celebration on the Esplanade des Invalides.

I then made my way to Lourdes to join thousands of pilgrims in this jubilee year commemorating the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette.

The holy Mass near the grotto of Massabielle providentially coincided with the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, the perennial sign of the "mystery of death and of glory."

The cross demonstrates that God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son. It teaches us that there is no genuine love without suffering, and no gift of life without pain.

Lourdes is thus a school of faith and hope because it is a school of charity and service. I am deeply grateful to God and to all who made this trip a blessed, memorable success. Thank you.

## Abortion and common ground

*Ways abound to reduce prevalence of abortion*

Following the national conventions, the question has been raised anew whether there is any common ground to be found on the ever divisive topic of abortion. How we pursue agreement may make all the difference.

Recent events suggest that contesting what modern genetics cannot deny — namely, that life begins at conception — is a non-starter, but closer attention to those arguing for improvement in the social and economic circumstances of families, especially families with little or modest wealth, may pay a handsome dividend in the strengthening of a culture of life.

Of course, no Catholic should try to find common ground on unstable terrain. Church teaching is clear: Abortion is intrinsically wrong and no amount of linguistic parsing provides escape.

The lack of maneuverability here is aptly illustrated by a recent public conversation between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the bishops over medievalist theology.

On a recent "Meet the Press" appearance, Pelosi noted that some Fathers of the Church differed on when life begins.

Not so, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees, respectively.

While in church history several notable theologians disagreed over when

ensoulment occurred, when life begins and ensoulment are different, procured abortion has never been acceptable to the Catholic Church.

The bishops' correction was fairly given. What was most unfortunate was some conservative partisans and media taking unnecessary glee in the correction — feeding yet again what divides us rather than that which brings us together.

More helpful was the circulation of new compilations of data illustrating often overlooked facts about the incidence of abortion. Hugh Skees of Miamisburg, Ohio, has culled from the public records of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that from 1979 to 1990 the annual rate of abortion increased by 14.2 percent.

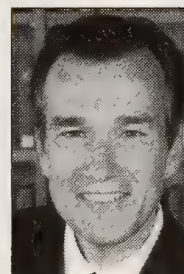
"If the rate had not increased during those 11 years, approximately 740,000 abortions would have been prevented," Skees said. "From 1990 to 2000, the annual rate decreased by 34 percent. If the rate had not decreased as it did, approximately 2.3 million more children would have been aborted, but instead are alive today."

What was so favorable in the 1990s that abortion rates dropped? Skees speculates that it was the relatively prosperous economic times and policies that favored the average family.

Skees may be on to something. Catholics in the Alliance for the

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMEC  
CNS COLUMNIST



Common Good, under director Alexia Kelley, produced an even finer grain study finding that the abortion rate among women living below the poverty level is more than four times that of women above 300 percent of the poverty level.

This study of all U.S. states from 1982 to 2000 finds that social and economic supports such as public assistance to low-income families and other maternity and prenatal benefits have contributed significantly to reducing the number of abortions in the United States over the past 20 years.

At a minimum the findings suggest that while the Supreme Court may have blocked one means of dealing with the scourge of abortion — that of legal prohibition — there is no reason why we can't make an effort to reduce its prevalence.

Perhaps the sign of common ground is agreeing that there is, in fact, more than one way to be pro-life. As Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker Movement so well taught, one need not wait for an institution to do good, since we ourselves can start today.

The thousands of Catholic volunteers in crisis pregnancy centers know this full well.





## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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### FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Greeting - Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Concert of Sacred Music for the Liturgical Season featuring a diocesan choir with 120 voices of praise
- Keynote Speaker - His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley, D.D., Ph.D.
- Catholic Shops



### SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour - Homilist Archbishop John F. Donoghue
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

### GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



**Tarek Saab** — "Faith Gut Check" — Tarek rose to fame as a contestant on the popular TV show "The Apprentice." A dynamic speaker, Tarek focuses on chastity, modesty, business ethics, pornography, abortion and prayer.



**Fr. Richard Ho Lung** — "Servant of the Poor" — Fr. Ho Lung is the founder of The Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to joyful service of the poorest of the poor.



**Denis McNamara, M. Arch. H., Ph. D.** — "Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture" — Denis is an architectural historian who will show us how the role of sacred architecture affects our lives.



**Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.** — "Proclaiming Christ Through Our Reverence for the Human Person" — Sr. Terese is the Bioethics Chair of Pope John Paul the Great High School in Dumfries, Virginia.

### HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



**Roberto Ramirez**  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



**Hna. Bertha López Chávez**  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



**Lupita Venegas**  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 40

## Perspectives

Moral clarity in an  
election year; the abortion  
misconception

| PAGES 14-15

## Baptismal bonds

*Charlotte priest  
enriched by trip to  
Peruvian missions*

CHARLOTTE — A priest of the Diocese of Charlotte returned recently from a two-week trip to the jungles of Peru.

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, visited Aug. 25-Sept. 11 the small-town church with which his parish has established an outreach program.

"While their ministry is in many ways different from the ministry here in a city parish in Charlotte, there is a bond that we all share by virtue of our baptism and faith," said Father Lawlor.

It was two years ago that Father Lawlor and parishioner Luis Lecaros visited and established a relationship with St. Martin de Porres Church in Aguaytia, in the Apostolic Vicariate of Pucallapa.

"An apostolic vicariate is a

See PERU, page 5

## Preserving Scripture

*Library of Congress  
offers access to 800 years  
of biblical evolution*

BY CHAZ MUTH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of  
an ongoing series on the Bible.*

WASHINGTON — As 11-year-old Phoenix resident Savannah Wix entered the Great Hall of the Library of Congress during an early August trip to Washington, her attention was immediately drawn to a featured interactive contraption that allows patrons

See BIBLE, page 13

## A window into heaven



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses the altar during the rededication Mass at St. Bernadette Mission in Linville Sept. 19.

## Bishop Jugis rededicates expanded St. Bernadette Mission in Linville

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

LINVILLE — Many would agree the mountain scenery around Linville is awe-inspiring. Now Catholics in Linville have a refurbished church to inspire awe in the Lord.

"In this church, our relationship with Christ will be deepened and nourished," said Father Christopher Gober, pastor of St. Bernadette Mission in Linville, during the church's rededication Mass.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Mass Sept. 19, with former pastors and other diocesan priests concelebrating.

The event was the culmination of more than a year's worth of work to expand and refurbish the church, a growing mission of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine.

"St. Bernadette is unique in that it serves a largely seasonal population from beginning of summer to fall," said Father Gober.

The additional Mass that was scheduled to accommodate the influx of visitors did not alleviate the growth.

"This was the most pressing reason for the expansion. We had to develop for the immediate need but for the future as well," said Father Gober.

See DEDICATION, page 12

## In the spirit of service

*St. Matthew Church celebrates 22 years*

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Busy doesn't even begin to describe the amount of activity that took place at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 19-21.

The weekend was packed full of celebration marking the 22nd anniversary of the church. At the center of it all was a spirit of service, a theme that runs deep through the parish and its 104 ministries.

"It was truly a community celebration of a parish trying to be connected to Christ, by being his hands and feet in this day and age," said Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor.

Adding to the celebration was the feast day of St. Matthew, which was particularly fitting, and Catechetical Sunday whereby 600 catechists received a special blessing at

See PARISH, page 4



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

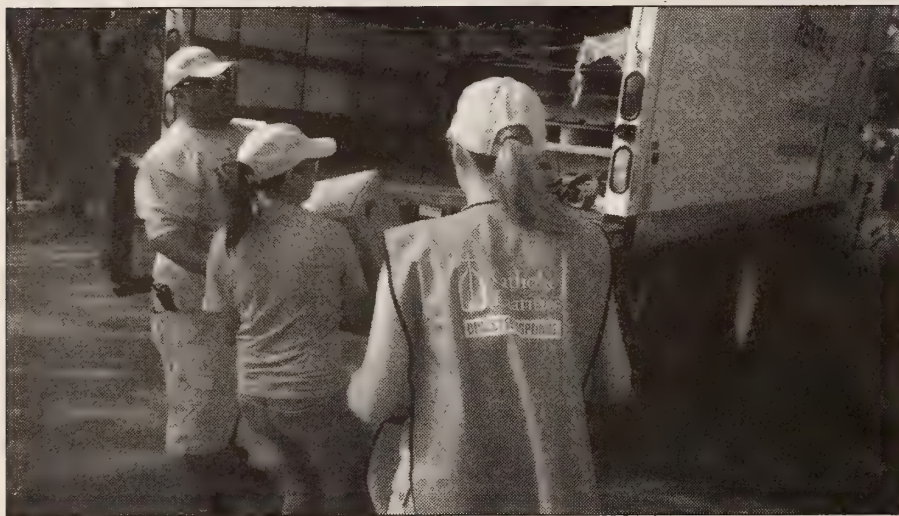
Hundreds of parishioners bring containers of pennies to the altar during Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 21, part of a fundraiser to assist needy families in the area.



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FOOD AFTER THE FURY



CNS PHOTO BY ERIK NORIEGA, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

Volunteers assist in unloading a truck full of water and MREs ("meals ready to eat") at St. Christopher Church in Houston Sept. 20. The food and water distribution was organized by the local Catholic Charities agency. More than 40 staff and volunteers distributed the much needed items to hundreds in the area, most of whom were left without electricity after Hurricane Ike swept through the area Sept. 13.

## Catholic social agencies mobilize in Hurricane Ike relief efforts

HOUSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas Catholic social agencies have swiftly mobilized to offer assistance to those affected by the storm, which hit the region Sept. 13.

In mid-September, staff members and volunteers from Catholic Charities visited coastal communities such as Texas City, Dickinson and Bacliff, as well as Houston, to provide assistance to those in need. They were continuing those efforts in the coastal area.

"Our goal is to take care of the immediate, basic needs by supplying water, canned goods, diapers, those kinds of items," said Yolanda Gutierrez, on-site supervisor for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

By coordinating relief efforts, Catholic Charities USA has opened a warehouse specifically for the purpose of delivery of goods to distribution sites.

"We are focusing on Galveston County, and the needs of far-reaching communities who have limited access to government sponsored PODs (point of distribution)," said Jim Gajewski, Catholic Charities vice president of program services.

"We see our niche reaching out deeper into communities, the pockets of disenfranchised who are impoverished and don't have the means to get to these PODs," he said.

Catholic Charities planned to continue its efforts in the field into the foreseeable future, as long as supplies lasted and the needs remained.

"We are taking it day to day; we really have to be flexible and keep our ear to the ground," Gajewski said. "As long as the need is out there, we want to be providing for those needs."

Catholic Charities was out at St. Christopher Church in Houston Sept. 20, distributing water and MREs, which

stands for "meals ready to eat."

James Rodriguez and his family waited in line for his allocation.

"It's tough right now. We don't have electricity so we can't cook anything," said Rodriguez, who is a house painter.

While he expects to be busy soon, he had been unable to work following the storm as potential clients waited for insurance companies to assess damage.

"You never want to complain as long as you're eating," Rodriguez said. "I appreciate Catholic Charities for feeding us tonight."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul suffered damage to all of its program locations, but officials were trying to maximize their resources to help others through their "Arms Wide Open" project.

"We have about 2,000 elderly clients in our program, so our mission right now is to go door-to-door of homes to visit and make sure everyone is OK," said Wendy Garaghty, the society's executive director. "We will bring them all of the essentials, as well. We also have some formula, because we have a lot of clients with newborns."

Local organizations were relying on St. Vincent de Paul councils across the nation and state — including Austin, San Antonio and Dallas — who have been trucking food into the Galveston-Houston area.

Garaghty said she is always inspired to see so many people working together to assist others through a time of trial and devastation.

"To be able to go in and bring health and comfort to people in need ... we always walk away better people having met these individuals we serve," she said. "Our spirituality grows as well as the persons we are visiting. We don't preach the Gospel, but we certainly see God everywhere we go."

## Cardinal urges Congress to reject proposed Freedom of Choice Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that "we can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities has urged members of Congress to reject the proposed Freedom of Choice Act.

In a Sept. 19 letter, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the legislation "would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country," force all Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars and overturn "modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry" in all 50 states.

"No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on how to reduce abortions," he added.

The Freedom of Choice Act was introduced in both the House and Senate April 19, 2007, the day after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of

the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in *Gonzales v. Carhart*.

It states that "every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child, to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or to terminate a pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to protect the life or health of the woman."

Although no action has been taken in either house since then, the U.S. bishops "are gravely concerned about any possible consideration" of the legislation in the final weeks of the 110th Congress, Cardinal Rigali said.

"Pro-abortion groups and some of the bill's congressional sponsors have said they want this legislation enacted soon," he added.

Cardinal Rigali said that recently "the national debate on abortion has taken a turn that may be productive" as members of both political parties "have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — The Missionaries of the Poor and Father Richard Ho Lung will be having a free *Spirit Concert* at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Becky Wright at (704) 289-2773.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Be Strong: Exercises for Physical and Spiritual Strength*, a new women's ministry at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., combines gentle yoga with prayer, Scripture and spiritual reflection for a unique 90-minute workout that strengthens body and soul. Tuesdays 7:30-9 p.m. or Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. Classes run Sept. 23 - Nov. 13. Free, but registration is required. Visit [www.bestrongministries.org](http://www.bestrongministries.org) or contact Lisa Tolido at (704) 737-3222.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide adults 18-40 with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will

take place at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 East Morehead St., Monday evenings during September. The topic for Sept. 29 will be "Life - From Beginning to End," presented by Maggie Nadol, Respect Life director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Nadol will discuss a variety of pro-life topics, including abortion, suicide, euthanasia and God's true plan for us all. RSVP to [jennifer.eues@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.eues@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org/yam).

CHARLOTTE — The *semi-annual rosary rally* will be held Sunday, Oct. 12, at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. Come honor Our Lady by participating in this 35-year tradition. The event will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia, will be the homilist. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning *Adult Spirituality* series takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "The Sacrament of the Present Moment: Living Deeply," will be held Oct. 13. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant midday prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* invites women of the diocese

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## FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official urges government to protect religious minorities

GENEVA (CNS) — Governments must find ways to promote religious tolerance and avoid blasphemy laws that can backfire by targeting religious minorities, said a Vatican official.

The Vatican's representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, said in some countries, religious defamation laws "have been used as weapons against personal enemies or as an excuse to incite mob violence."

"Such actions result in polarizing religious communities rather than in promoting intolerance," he said Sept. 19 at a U.N. Human Rights Council session focusing on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

Archbishop Tomasi noted that an "intensified expression of religious intolerance" has flared in recent weeks in several parts of the world.

Without specifically citing the recent violence and persecution against

Christians in India, Pakistan and Iraq, the archbishop discussed incidents of religiously motivated attacks and killings, the desecration of places of worship and the threats and fears forcing thousands of people to flee their homes.

"Impunity for these crimes, as is often the case, gives the message that violent aggression against, and even the physical elimination of, people from a different faith conviction is acceptable," said Archbishop Tomasi.

He said governments should work to promote tolerance through concrete juridical norms, ending discrimination on the state and social level. He also said they should promote better protection of individuals from group violence and should adopt "the practice of reasonable accommodation of religious practice."

Schools, the media and faith communities also play a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and constructive coexistence, he said.

Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 1 6:30 - 9 p.m. The theme of the reflection will be the four objectives of the Catholic family. The event is free and open to all Catholic men. Pizza and refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria followed by a talk 7 to 9 p.m. in the church. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — The parish health ministry and flames of fire prayer group will sponsor a *Charismatic Healing Mass* at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Oct. 18, 1-3 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Fidel Melo. Music will be provided by Freeway. Richard Collins, parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church, will be speaking about the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. For more information, contact Ben D'Apollito at (336) 812-3730.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Justin Catanoso, author of *My Cousin the Saint, A Search for Faith, Family and Miracles* will be at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., to share his spiritual journey and sign his book Oct. 4, 3-4:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Holy Family Church Evangelization Commission and Holy Family Church Seniors. For more information, contact Larry Chance at (336) 403-3689 or lchance@bellsouth.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kmmoore@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican newspaper says crisis shows failure of 'new economy'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current financial crisis pummeling the United States and beyond is a sign that the so-called "new economy" and its risky investments have failed, the Vatican newspaper said.

The booming growth of financial markets did not correspond to real growth or concrete development for society because it created an artificially robust gross national product, said a Sept. 24 article in L'Osservatore Romano.

The only real growth registered in this crisis has been "the commissions, profits of the banks and bonuses for the managers," it said.

The article, with the headline "A costly illusion," was written by Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian economist and professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy.

The U.S. financial meltdown has been blamed on "the greed of managers and lack of regulations. But curiously, no one ever refers to the indirect responsibility of the government's economic policy" which, he wrote, tried to cover the lack of any real economic development with a booming Wall Street.

He said the U.S. government's proposed bailout may stave off any

worst-case scenario for its troubled financial markets, but it will not repair the root causes of the crisis.

"Despite various attempts, the Western world does not know how to map out a model of development that is capable of guaranteeing stable wealth," the article said.

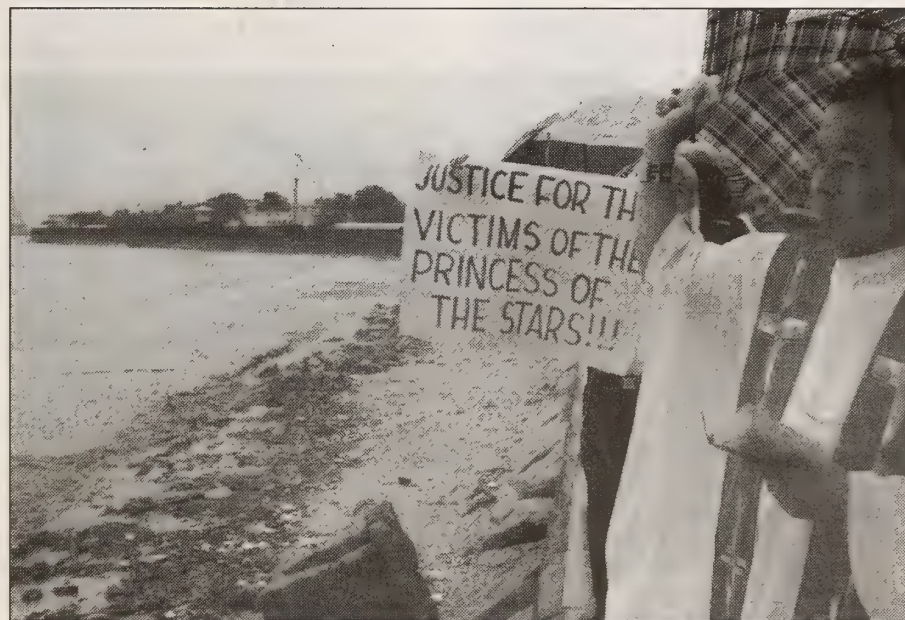
The West has "not succeeded with its new economy project, it did not succeed with accelerating growth in Asia by transferring low-cost production (there), and it did not succeed after inventing a boom in the GNP through risky financial models that were poorly conceived and badly regulated," it said.

"In order to maintain this sham GNP, the banks financed things that were not guaranteed" and that should not have been financed, like the subprime loans, it said. Financial institutions created an "economic growth out of debt and, therefore, (created something) very risky," it added.

The article said the lesson to be learned is that nations cannot build a healthy economy or experience real development if it is not based on "balanced demographic growth."

It said the world economy also needs to be run responsibly and transparently with precise rules.

# Sprinkling the sea



CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

A Catholic priest sprinkles holy water during a Mass for the victims of sunken ferry MV Princess of the Stars at Manila Bay in the Philippines Sept. 23. The ferry ran aground and flipped over during Typhoon Fengshen June 21, killing about 700 passengers.

# Priest, atheist debate God and science

NEW YORK (CNS) — A conversation between the Catholic theologian Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete and the outspoken atheist Christopher Hitchens was billed as an inquiry into the question "Does science make belief in God obsolete?"

In reality, the Sept. 23 post-luncheon tussle at a New York hotel was more entertaining than enlightening, but the 325 observers didn't seem disappointed that there was no resolution to the question.

Msgr. Albacete, a former physicist, is national director of the Catholic lay group Communion and Liberation. Hitchens is a

critic and author of many books, including "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything." The event was one in a series of "Big Questions" conversations sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.

Msgr. Albacete said he had defended his faith in scientific circles throughout his career and was able to affirm his faith every day, in part because it is the source of honesty, he said. When Hitchens dismissed religion as unscientific and unprovable, Msgr. Albacete quickly drew a distinction between religion and faith. He said religion is an attitude toward life and is of human origin.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 27 (12 p.m.)  
Mass for Cursillo Grand Ultreya  
Steel Creek Park, Morganton

Sept. 28 (5:30 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
St. Eugene Church, Asheville

Sept. 29 (7 p.m.)  
Pastor installation of  
Redemptorist Father Joseph Dionne  
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

Oct. 3-4  
4th annual Eucharistic Congress  
Charlotte Convention Center



## St. Matthew Church celebrates 22 years of service, outreach

PARISH, from page 1

each of the weekend Masses.

Festivities began on Friday evening with a Respect Life spaghetti dinner and the showing of the movie "Bella."

"On Saturday we dedicated our sixth habitat house," said Msgr. McSweeney.

Funded by the teenagers of the parish, the home was completed in 14 weeks with the help of more than 200 participants clocking approximately 2,200 hours of volunteer time.

In keeping with their ongoing effort to alleviate homelessness in Charlotte, in June Msgr. McSweeney challenged his parishioners to a special project. They were asked to save a penny per day, per family member, to be collected on the anniversary weekend.

At the weekend Masses Sept. 20-21, parishioners brought their pennies to the altar, which was particularly significant according to Msgr. McSweeney because the altar itself "was given by the people in 1996 by collecting coins."

This time, the fruits of the collection will be focused on the community. The money will be distributed to different organizations serving the homeless in the Charlotte area, especially those serving single mothers and children.

A ministry fair, showcasing the 104 ministries of the parish was held

in the Parish Center gym following the weekend Masses.

To top everything off, St. Matthew Church was recognized with the national "Outstanding Parish" award by the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

The award is given to a parish that has answered the call to "welcome the stranger" through its ministry to assist in the resettlement of newly arriving immigrants and refugees.

The award was presented by Mary Jane Bruton, community relations coordinator for Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in the Diocese of Charlotte, who nominated the parish for the award.

Accepting the award on behalf of the parish was Bill LaMay, coordinator of the parish refugee ministry.

"St. Matthew Church has been a consistent standout in the measure of commitment and support, whether monetary or volunteer, for the refugee office for many years," said Bruton.

"Msgr. McSweeney has a phrase that he uses, 'attitude of gratitude,' and I think it runs as a common thread through everything they do," she said. "They give back in so many ways."

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

## Breaking ground at St. Ann Church



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Taking part in a ceremonial groundbreaking at St. Ann Church in Charlotte Sept. 20 are (from left) Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, Sister of St. Joseph Judy Monahan, Peggy Mazzola, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Father Timothy Reid, Clay Pressley, Tom Mathis and Chris Baratta. Construction of the new church is expected to begin soon.

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- \* our visit to Nazare, this most picturesque and colorful fishing village, will show us the way of life so important to many Portuguese for hundreds of years
- \* Alcobaca Monastery, an absolutely massive architectural wonder which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989
- \* a ride through beautiful Spanish countryside takes us to Burgos in the heart of the Castile region - we'll visit this world-acclaimed 3rd largest church in Spain with its elegant spires rising to the sky!
- \* nestled in the green splendor of the Pyrenees in southern France, we'll experience the peace and serenity of Lourdes where the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette, the poor shepherd girl, 18 times in 1858
- \* travel through beautiful southern France to Carcassonne and learn about the intriguing history of this medieval walled city
- \* La Sagrada Familia - one of Spain's most popular attractions - waits for us with many, many more sites on our in-depth look at fascinating Barcelona

Masses at many special spiritual sites, plus so much to see - and even time for personal exploration, shopping or relaxation, too - all for only \$2,830 per person (double occupancy). Price includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte; air taxes, fees, surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full); hotels; transfers; most meals; full-time tour manager; local guides. Cancellation waiver/insurance (\$150 per person) is not included.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 - or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor, watches as Bill LaMay accepts the "Outstanding Parish" award from Mary Jane Bruton of Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office during Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Sept. 21. More photos online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

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COURTESY PHOTO

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, baptizes a child in the chapel in Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) during his trip to Peru Aug. 25-Sept. 11.

## Priest enriched by trip to Peru

PERU, from page 1

mission territory that has not yet reached the stability to be named a diocese," said Father Lawlor. A mission territory was "the status of North Carolina prior to the establishment of the Diocese of Raleigh."

Peru is a nation of some 25 million people, 90 percent of whom are baptized Catholics. A significant percentage of adults earn about \$2 per day.

The apostolic vicariate is a vast area served by 21 priests, 35 women religious and a number of lay leaders and catechists.

"There are approximately 400,000 Catholics in about 500 communities," said Father Lawlor. "Each parish has the pastoral charge of numerous chapels. Other communities meet in homes or public places."

While some parishes and communities have a weekly Mass, others have Masses that are celebrated monthly, quarterly or even annually.

"In the absence of a priest to celebrate Mass, there may be a Communion service with the Liturgy of the Word or perhaps just the Lectionary readings and hymns," said Father Lawlor.

Members of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy provide most of the pastoral care to Catholics in Aguaytia. Although the apostolic vicariate was helping them to build a convent and pastoral center beside St. Martin de Porres Church in Aguaytia, the sisters still needed help acquiring supplies and catechetical materials.

So in 2006, St. Vincent de Paul Church began raising funds to assist the sisters and their outreach.

A year later, in October 2007, two priests serving in the apostolic vicariate visited St. Vincent de Paul Church to give an update on their pastoral challenges and needs.

From a special collection taken up at St. Vincent de Paul Church, funds were donated that were divided between

construction of a new chapel in Neshua, a small town experiencing a population increase; programs for children and the poor; catechetical and liturgical materials; and furnishings for their pastoral centers.

During his recent visit, Father Lawlor visited the site of the new chapel.

"We are all aware that there are many needs and many worthy projects. I am pleased that we are able to do a small part to help with the mission of evangelization in another part of the world," said Father Lawlor.

Father Lawlor visited three other communities and baptized 10 children in a small rural chapel with an earthen floor. One of the trip's highlights, he said, was visiting a small mission in Tournavista on the Pachitea River.

"It was like going to the end of the earth," said Father Lawlor.

There, four sisters visit 52 communities scattered along the river via small motorized canoes. It may take them two-to-three days to reach some of the more distant communities.

The sisters live with four postulants in "what looked to be an old farmhouse," said Father Lawlor.

"They do not have running water or a phone," he said. "As they only have electricity for two-and-a-half hours per day, they have no refrigeration. They use a small gas burner for cooking."

The sisters and postulants haul water from a community well for cooking and washing, and all share a rustic outhouse.

Father Lawlor said his heart was moved by their humble quarters and their Christian joy.

Upon his return, Father Lawlor consulted with his parish pastoral council about having another special collection this fall to raise funds to help build a well for the sisters in Tournavista.

"The trip to Peru energized me in my ministry here in Charlotte. I hope to return there again in the future," said Father Lawlor.

"I promised to buy a mission bell for the chapel in Tournavista and I promised that I would return again to ring it," he said.



# Standing for life

## Life Chains to be held around Diocese of Charlotte

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte will soon line the streets of their cities and towns to show their support for the sanctity of human life.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life Sunday falling on Oct. 5.

To help kick off the month and show their support for life, hundreds of parishes in dioceses around the country will be participating in Life Chains.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishioners will be standing along the property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

People will hold pro-life signs with messages such as "Abortion

Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

"It's a prayerful witness," said David Foppe, organizer of the Greensboro Life Chain. "We're holding our signs in public but we're also praying while we do it."

"We don't get to see all the fruits of our prayers," said Foppe, "but lives are definitely saved and mothers who have received abortions receive healing."

This year, Foppe is expecting about 1,000 people from 35 area churches to participate in the Greensboro Life Chain.

The U.S. bishops inaugurated the Respect Life program with a resolution they adopted in the spring of 1972.

The first of what the resolution called a "week of prayer and study dedicated to the sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in our world" was held that October.

### LIFE CHAINS IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Life Chains in the Diocese of Charlotte area will be held Oct. 5. Pro-life individuals are welcome to participate in any of the gatherings. Participants should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled start time. Life Chains include:

#### BELMONT

Queen of the Apostles Church, at N. Main St./N. Central Ave., 12:45-2 p.m.

#### CHARLOTTE

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, at Shamrock Rd./Crestmont Dr., 1-2 p.m.

Our Lady of Consolation Church, at Statesville Rd./Dearborn Ave., 12 p.m.

St. Ann Church, at Park Rd./Hillside Ave., 2-3 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church, at Providence/Sharon Rds., 2-3 p.m.

St. John Neumann Church, at Idlewild/Valley Grove Rds., 1:30-2:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Church, at Ballantyne Commons Pkwy./Rea Rd., 2-3 p.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral, at Kings Dr./Morehead St., 2-3 p.m.

St. Peter Church, at S. Tryon/East 1st St., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, at UNC-C on University City Blvd., 1-2 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Church, at Old Reid/Park Rds., 12:45-1:45 p.m.

#### GREENSBORO/HIGH POINT

Battleground Ave. between Cornwallis Dr. and Westridge Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

#### HUNTERSVILLE

St. Mark Church, at Stumptown/Ranson Rds., 2-3 p.m.

#### KANNAPOLIS

St. Joseph Church, at Highway 29/Chipola St., 2-3 p.m.

#### KERNERSVILLE

Holy Cross Church, at 616 S. Cherry St., 9-10 a.m.

#### MINT HILL

St. Luke Church, at 13700 Lawyers Rd., 12:30-1:30 p.m.

#### MOCKSVILLE

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

#### MOORESVILLE

St. Therese Church, Highway 150 between Morrison Plantation Pkwy and Williamson Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

#### SALISBURY

Sacred Heart Church, at Innes/Main Sts., 1-2 p.m.

#### STATESVILLE

St. Philip the Apostle Church, at Glenway Dr., 2:30-3:30 p.m.

#### WINSTON-SALEM

Hanes Mall Blvd. from Stratford Rd. to Hanes Point Shopping Center, 2:30-3:30 p.m.



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Rev. Msgr. William Wellein 1997

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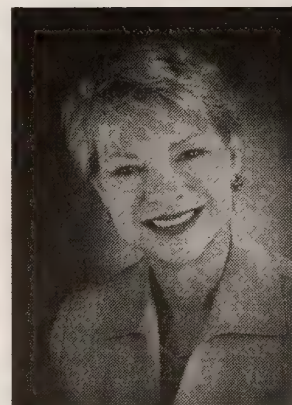
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Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm

**\*\* Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or [iroomattheinn@rati.org](mailto:iroomattheinn@rati.org).

Room At The Inn is a non-profit maternity and after-care program serving women and their children in Charlotte and the surrounding areas since 1994.



## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

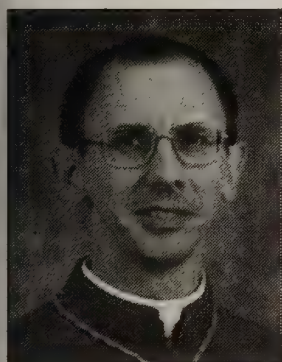
## FOURTH DIOCESAN EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

OCT. 3-4, 2008

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER



**It Is Christ  
Whom We Proclaim**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to participate in our Eucharistic Congress on Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Charlotte Convention Center.

During this past year, the Eucharistic Congress committee has devoted many hours of selfless labor to prepare for this joyful event, and I am grateful for the service they have given to the Lord and to the Church.

At the Eucharistic Congress we see the entire Diocese of Charlotte present. Parishioners from parishes, schools, lay movements and associations from across the diocese let us know they are participating by the banners they reverently carry in the eucharistic procession on Saturday morning and in the procession before Mass on Saturday afternoon.

In the great eucharistic moments that occur during the congress — namely, the eucharistic procession through the streets of Charlotte, the holy hour of adoration and the Sacrifice of the Mass — we see how marvelously the Eucharist brings us together as one. We, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one Eucharistic Lord. The Eucharist strengthens our unity as a diocesan family, and makes us grow in faith and charity.

After the consecration of the Eucharist at every Mass, the priest issues an invitation to the congregation: "Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith." We are invited at that moment to proclaim Christ and his paschal mystery, for he has indeed become really and substantially present under the appearances of bread and wine. To proclaim Christ is the great privilege and mission of every Christian. The theme of this year's Eucharistic Congress — "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim" — reminds us of our mission to proclaim Christ in our daily lives.

This year's congress begins Friday evening with a welcome from

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte, followed by a concert of sacred music. We are honored to have His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley as the keynote speaker this year. Cardinal Foley is grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

On Saturday, we start the day with a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte. The procession goes from St. Peter Church to the convention center. Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue of Atlanta will deliver the homily during the holy hour that follows. We will then hear from an array of very inspiring speakers. Children, teens, adults and Hispanics have separate programs with messages specifically directed to them. Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of confession are available during the day.

The day culminates with everyone participating in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the convention center. My brother priests will join me in the concelebration of the Eucharist. This Mass will fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation.

On the following pages you will find more detailed information, as well as a map of the eucharistic procession route. Other information is available at the Web site [www.goEucharist.com](http://www.goEucharist.com).

The Eucharistic Congress is a beautiful opportunity for the faithful of the diocese to come together in faith and charity each year to proclaim Christ Our Savior. I look forward to seeing you at this event, which is a great blessing for our diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of Charlotte



## Watching and participating in the eucharistic procession

### THE ROUTE

The eucharistic procession, led by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, at St. Peter Church, South Tryon Street and First Street. (First communicants with parent or guardian, clergy, religious and banner carriers should gather on Tryon Street south of St. Peter Church at 8:30 a.m.)

The procession will head north on Tryon Street for two blocks, then turn east onto Martin Luther King Boulevard for two blocks. The procession will then turn south onto Brevard Street to the Charlotte Convention Center.

People of the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to line the procession route.

### TO PARTICIPATE

As the Blessed Sacrament comes near, it is the custom to be silent and kneel until the monstrance passes.

After the Blessed Sacrament passes by, look for your parish's banner. When your parish banner passes by, you may fall in along with your parish to join in the procession. Once you have connected with your parish group, simply join in the communal prayers or just pray silently as the procession moves along.

When the procession arrives at the Charlotte Convention Center, move as directed by the ushers to enter the main hall. Proceed to the seating area, joining in the singing until the beginning of the holy hour.

### Procession Map Legend

- PROCESSION STAGING AREA & PROCESSION CHECK-IN
- PROCESSION ENTRANCE INTO CONVENTION CENTER
- PROCESSION ROUTE
- P PARKING

## Frequently asked questions about the Eucharistic Congress

### What is the Eucharistic Congress?

The Eucharistic Congress is a teaching and worship event that is centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic life.

### What is the schedule of events?

The Congress begins Friday evening, Oct. 3, with a greeting from Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, a concert of sacred choral music and a talk by Cardinal John P. Foley, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Afterward, the Eucharist will be available for adoration throughout the night at St. Peter Church, 501 S. Tryon St.

Events on Saturday, Oct. 4, begin at 9 a.m., with the eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church through downtown Charlotte to the Charlotte Convention Center, where there will be a holy hour with a homily by retired Atlanta Archbishop John F. Donoghue.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., there are programs (or "tracks") for adults, Hispanics, teens and children.

From 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. will be culture hours in native languages for Filipino, Korean and Vietnamese Catholics. At 3:30 p.m., there will be a concert of sacred music.

During the day, the Eucharist will be available for adoration in a special chapel in the Charlotte Convention Center. Priests will be available for confessions all day and there will be an area for vendors selling religious merchandise and offering information about Catholic vocations, religious organizations and ministries, etc.

The Congress concludes with a Vigil Mass that begins at 4:30 p.m.

### Where does the idea for a Eucharistic Congress come from?

The first eucharistic congress was held in Lille, France in 1881 under the

direction of Msgr. Gaston De Segur. In time, eucharistic congresses developed to their present international character.

The congress of 1908, which met in London, was the first occasion on which a representative of the pope had entered England since the Protestant Reformation. Two international eucharistic congresses have been held in the United States — Chicago in 1926 and Philadelphia in 1976.

The Diocese of Charlotte celebrated its first Congress in September 2005.

### Who is allowed to take part in the procession?

Everyone. Leading the procession will be altar servers, organized societies such as the Knights of Columbus, clergy and, most importantly, the Eucharist. Following will be banner carriers representing churches, schools and organizations in the diocese.

The faithful are invited to join the

procession as the banner for their church or organization passes by.

### What if I am handicapped or unable to walk in the procession?

The Charlotte Convention Center is handicapped-accessible. In addition, individuals with handicaps and those who choose not to walk in the procession are invited to witness part of the procession on the video screens in the Convention Center. Music and clergy will be available in this location until the eucharistic procession arrives.

### What if it rains?

The Eucharistic Congress will be held rain or shine. The procession may be moved into the Charlotte Convention Center depending on the weather.

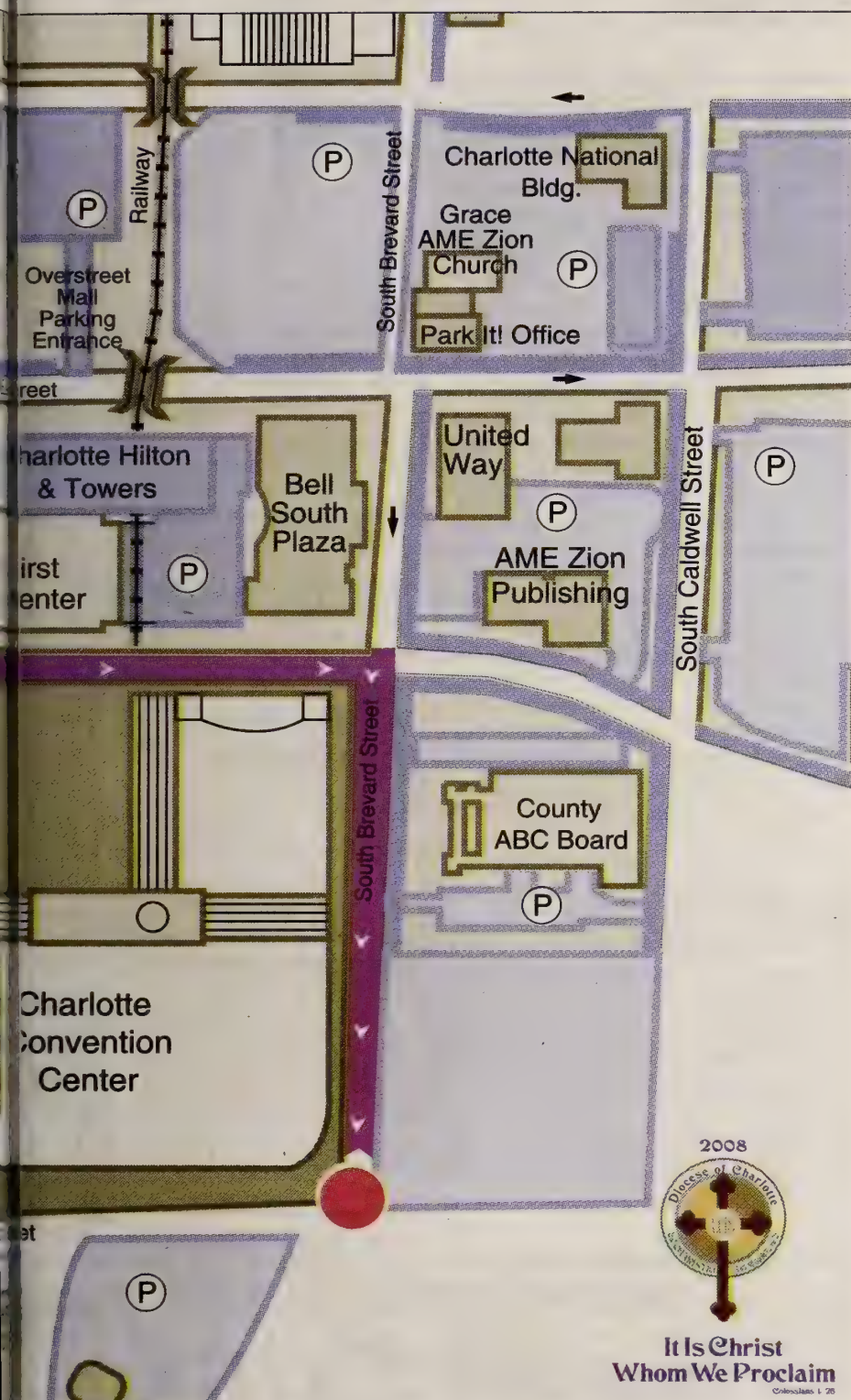
### Where can I park?

There is ample parking around the





# PROCESSION



## Directions to the Eucharistic Congress

### DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 77

At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd  
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 N/US-74 E / John Belk Frwy  
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown  
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St  
College St / Downtown  
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,  
(704) 339-6000

### DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-NORTH

At exit 36 of Interstate 85- North, turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
NC-16 / Brookshire Blvd / US-74 E / Downtown  
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-16 [Brookshire Blvd]  
NC-16 / Charlotte / Bank of America Stadium  
Road name changes to I-277 [SR-16]  
At exit 1E, turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
Stonewall St / South Blvd / Kenilworth Ave  
Keep RIGHT to stay on Ramp  
Stonewall St / Kenilworth Ave  
Turn LEFT (North-West) onto E Stonewall St  
Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto S College St  
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,  
(704) 339-6000

### DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-SOUTH

At exit 38 of Interstate 85 South, turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
I-77 / US-21 / Statesville / Columbia  
Take Ramp (LEFT) onto I-77 [US-21]  
I-77 / US-21 / Columbia  
At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd  
At exit 9C, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp  
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 [US-74]  
I-277 / US-74 / John Belk Frwy  
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp  
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown  
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St  
College St / Downtown  
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,  
(704) 339-6000

Charlotte Convention Center. Since the Congress takes place on a weekend, traffic will be minimal but allowing extra time for parking is advised.

#### What age children will be able to participate in the Children's Track?

Children from kindergarten through fifth-grade are welcome to participate in the Children's Track. All children in the Children's Track must be registered. Seating will be limited. Children in the Children's Track will be involved in age-appropriate activities and will be served lunch.

#### What is being done to provide a secure environment for the children?

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as adopted by the U.S. bishops.

All adult volunteers at the Eucharistic Congress who will have supervisory

contact with children will be required to attend the diocesan training, "Protecting God's Children." Background checks will also be performed on any adult having supervisory contact with children.

#### Who is speaking at the Eucharistic Congress?

The list of dynamic, inspiring speakers can be accessed by visiting the speakers' page of the Eucharistic Congress Web site at [www.goEucharist.com](http://www.goEucharist.com) and on page 16 of this issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

#### Will there be a Mass at the Eucharistic Congress?

Yes. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.

#### Is there a charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress?

There is no charge for any of the

events associated with the Eucharistic Congress.

Everyone who desires a closer relationship to the Eucharist is encouraged to attend and participate.

The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting contributions to defray the cost of staging the congress. To donate, visit [www.goEucharist.com](http://www.goEucharist.com) or donate at the congress.

#### Will food be served?

The Charlotte Convention Center will offer a variety of food for sale throughout the day.

Lunch will be provided at no charge for the children attending the Children's Track session.

Before and after the congress, attendees may want to take advantage of the restaurants, hotels and attractions that are within easy walking distance of the convention center.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance in the eucharistic procession during the 2005 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte.



# Speakers at the 2008 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte

## FRIDAY, OCT. 3

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### CARDINAL JOHN P. FOLEY, GRAND MASTER OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

Ordained a priest in 1962, Cardinal Foley has been involved in Catholic communications in its many forms. He served as editor of *The Catholic Standard & Times*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and for 23 years was president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications, a post he held until 2007.

Named an archbishop in 1984, he was made a cardinal in November 2007.

In his position as grand master, he guides the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in the organization's support of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and its response to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

In April, he became only the fifth person to receive the Christopher Leadership Award in the Christopher Awards' 59-year history. The Leadership Award recognizes individuals who have set a leadership example in the fields of media, church or government.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 4

**ARCHBISHOP JOHN F. DONOGHUE**, who retired as archbishop of Atlanta in 2004, will deliver the homily during the eucharistic holy hour and Benediction on Saturday morning. He has attended all of the Diocese of Charlotte's Eucharistic Congresses since 2005.

**BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS**, a Charlotte native and fourth bishop of Charlotte, will offer welcoming remarks at the conclusion of the Saturday morning eucharistic holy hour.

## GENERAL TRACK, SATURDAY

### "FAITH GUT CHECK"

#### TAREK SAAB

A Maronite Catholic and daily communicant, Saab became an instant celebrity after appearing in 2005 on NBC's *"The Apprentice,"* one of the most highly rated and critiqued shows on network television at the time.

A dynamic speaker, Saab uses his business acumen and new visibility to advance pro-life causes across the country. He focuses on chastity, modesty, business ethics, pornography, abortion and prayer.

### "SERVANT OF THE POOR"

#### FATHER RICHARD HO LUNG

A former Jesuit and composer of liturgical reggae music, Father Ho Lung is founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to service of the poor.

The order, which is recognized by the Vatican and was aided by the Blessed Mother Teresa, houses and cares for abandoned children, lepers, people with AIDS and others in need in India, the Philippines, Haiti and Jamaica.

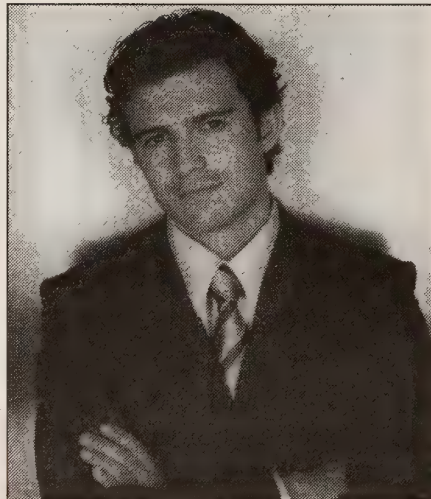
Born in Jamaica to Chinese parents, Father Ho Lung converted from Buddhism to Catholicism and was ordained a priest in 1971. He founded Missionaries of the Poor in 1981.

His dynamic presentation will include praise and worship music.

### "PROCLAIMING CHRIST IN SACRED ART AND ARCHITECTURE"

#### DENIS MCNAMARA

McNamara is an architectural



CNS PHOTO BY VIRGINIA SHERWOOD, NBC

Tarek Saab, who has a degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, will speak at the 2008 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 4.

historian, author and assistant director at the Liturgical Institute at the, University of St. Mary of the Lake and Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.

McNamara specializes in the study of sacred liturgy in relation to sacramental theology. He will examine how the role of sacred architecture effects the lives of Catholics.

### "PROCLAIMING CHRIST THROUGH OUR REVERENCE FOR THE HUMAN PERSON"

#### DOMINICAN SISTER TERESE AUER

Sister Auer is chair of the bioethics department at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Dumfries, Va. The high school, which opened this year, includes a comprehensive bioethics curriculum, the first of its kind in the country.

The curriculum was written by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, with whom Sister Auer has been a member for more than 30 years.

She received her master's and doctoral degrees from the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and has taught on elementary, high school and college levels.

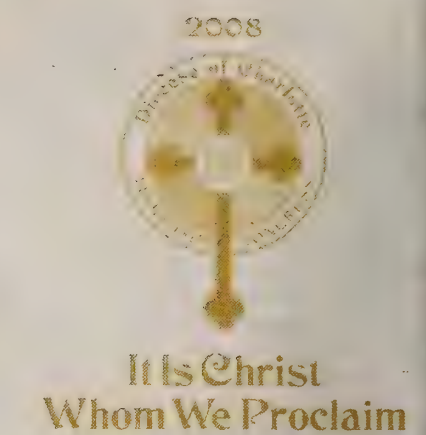
## HISPANIC TRACK, SATURDAY

### "PREDICAMOS A CRISTO CRUCIFICADO"

#### ROBERTS RAMIREZ

Ramirez is an active member of the Community of the Servants of Christ founded in 1982 by Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Emiliano Tardif, a priest from Quebec, and Deacon Evaristo Guzman.

Ramirez offers testimony of how, after finding God in 1989, he was



impelled to make radical changes in his life.

### "JESUCRISTO EN LA VIDA DEL LAICO"

#### LUPITA VENEGAS

Venegas, a family therapist since 1984, earned a degree in sciences of the family from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

Venegas, an international speaker on human development and diffusion of mass media in society, teaches self-improvement courses to poor communities and businesses.

### "JESUCRISTO Y LOS MAS NECESITADOS"

#### SISTER BERTHA LOPEZ CHAVEZ

Sister Chavez is a pro-life coordinator in Mexico, founding member of The City of Joy Foundation in Mexico and a director of PAIPID, a Catholic rehabilitation center providing care and counseling for people with HIV and AIDS and their families.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Dorothy Day diaries offer glimpses of very human saint

REVIEWED BY NANCY L. ROBERTS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Just in time for this year's 75th birthday of the Catholic Worker Movement, its co-founder Dorothy Day's diaries have been painstakingly edited by Robert Ellsberg and published under the title "The Duty of Delight."

Ellsberg, who lived as part of the Catholic Worker community in New York (1975-1980), whittles Day's diaries to the wheat, not to mention the boon of an easy familiarity with her handwriting.

The historian David O'Brien has famously called Day (1897-1980) "the most significant, interesting and influential person in the history of American Catholicism."

There was no separation between Day's Gospel ideals and the way she lived, in voluntary poverty serving the poor and witnessing for peace and social justice, as Ellsberg has written in the introduction to "Dorothy Day: Selected Writings," an earlier book he ably edited.

Unsealed 25 years after her death, Day's diaries are kept in the Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker collection at Marquette University in Milwaukee along with her other personal papers.

The diaries eloquently reveal the daily challenge of trying to live the Gospel. They begin in 1934, shortly after the founding of the Catholic Worker, and end just before her death in 1980, transporting the reader with her through the Great Depression, World War II (in which Day and her paper, The Catholic Worker, remained staunchly pacifist), the Cold War, the Korean and Vietnam wars and the struggle for civil rights.

Day emerges as fully involved in the everyday work of feeding and

sheltering the poor.

She dealt each day with alcoholics, drug addicts and the insane; she worried about paying bills; she got her clothing from the common clothing bin and ate whatever was served in the soup kitchen each night. She also recounts witnessing to her long-standing pacifism and nonviolence through public demonstrations and civil disobedience, and on the most personal level, through her frequent struggle to become more compassionate and charitable, more forgiving and more prayerful.

Day, who found strength in daily Mass, prayer and the sacraments, is a very human saint here. She is also a devoted mother to her daughter Tamar and grandmother to nine, a lover of music and literature who devoured books from Dostoevski to Flannery O'Connor, a colleague of Blessed Mother Teresa's, a world traveler and so much more.

A delightful sense of humor occasionally peeks through, as in her September 1964 account of caring for her grandchildren: "It is hard to write or think when the record player is blaring with 'Devil Woman.'"

Ellsberg includes a thoughtful introductory essay and timeline as well as occasional excerpts from Day's Catholic Worker columns.

The editor's occasional annotations are well placed and clear. Overall, the book's intimate look at how Day tried to see God in everyday life is extremely engaging and valuable.

Roberts is author of "Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker" and co-editor of "American Catholic Pacifism: The Influence of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 5, 2007

Oct. 5, Twenty-seventh  
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:9, 12-16, 19-20
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9  
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

## What some underestimate, God raises to new heights

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was in grade school I had a lot of friends. We played together every day at recess and spent the night at each other's houses on weekends.

We built forts in the woods, told ghost stories, talked about girls and played a lot of sandlot whiffle ball. We were inseparable.

Something mysterious happened in the summer between grade school and middle school. Part of my group of friends found other friends. They became the popular crowd, and I was left in the dust with the rest of the group.

I did not understand what had happened. I didn't feel any different, and my old friends in the new popular crowd didn't look any different. It seemed arbitrary, but for some reason I had been rejected by them.

This feeling of rejection stayed with me until my family moved to Texas. I was given a new start. There was a whole new set of people who didn't know my history of being rejected.

I got involved in church and school activities and soon found that I was being included instead of abandoned, invited instead of left out, sometimes even leading instead of following.

In my previous life in Michigan I didn't know what I could become because rejection had stifled my spirit in a powerful way. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would lead teenagers to deeper faith for more than 20 years, play in a band before 3,000 people, or be a published columnist.

I could not dream it, but God never doubted.

As today's readings show us, God protects and upholds that which he created for good. What others underestimate, and even reject, God raises up to new heights.

When others saw a poor shepherd boy, God saw King David. When others saw simple fishermen, God saw the foundation of a new church.

When I saw only rejection, God saw the future.

God always believes in us, no matter what. Nothing can shake his faithfulness. We may be broken, wounded, depressed, lost, exhausted, empty or rejected, but God stays at our side, always loving, always encouraging and always believing we are a cornerstone.

### Questions:

Have you ever seen God raise up someone others underestimate? How have you seen the God's faithfulness?

### Scripture to be Illustrated:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes" (Matthew 21:42).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 28-OCT. 4

Sunday (Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32; Monday (St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; Tuesday (St. Jerome), Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; Wednesday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux), Job 9:1-12, 14-16, Luke 9:57-62; Thursday (the Guardian Angels), Exodus 23:20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; Friday, Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Luke 10:13-16; Saturday (St. Francis of Assisi), Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17, Luke 10:17-24.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 5-11

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43; Monday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi), Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 11:5-13; Friday, Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28.

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### Upcoming Fall Days of Reflection

Wednesday, October 15 — St. Barnabas, Arden — 10am-3 pm

Deadline for Registration: Thursday, Oct. 2nd

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

Tuesday, Oct. 28 — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory — 10am-3pm

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, October 14th

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. John McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Church

Thursday, November 13 — St. James, Hamlet — 10:30am-3pm

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 4th

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, retired, Belmont Abbey



Cost: \$13 includes lunch. Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.



# Bishop rededicates church

DEDICATION, from page 1

The church can now accommodate about 500 people for Mass. Other changes include a new 5,000-square-foot social hall complete with kitchen and faith formation classrooms, a wider parking lot and a new rectory.

"Father Gober had a vision of what he wanted to do. He asked for our help and we said we'd be honored to do it," said Bill Woolley, who served as project manager and co-chaired the capital campaign with his wife, Delores.

"It was a thrilling project with lots of challenges, but it's been wonderful," she said. "There has been such generosity from the parishioners."

"The response was overwhelming. They really supported the vision," said Father Gober.

During the Mass, Bishop Jugis expressed appreciation for their efforts.

"I am grateful for the faith and devotion of all you who have come together to refurbish this church. I am grateful as your bishop for the sacrifices you have made," said the bishop.

He noted that the capital campaign proceeded at an "amazing pace."

"The co-chairs, Bill and Delores Woolley, worked diligently and devoted many hours on behalf of their brothers and sisters here," said Bishop Jugis.

"They put a significant, personal investment into the project, not only in helping raise funds but their overall management of the project," said Father Gober, who presented them with a papal blessing from Pope Benedict XVI during the Mass. "They put their hearts into it," Father Gober added.

In his homily, Bishop Jugis noted the Mass's Scripture readings "describe the beauty of the church and the beauty of the sacred mysteries that are celebrated here."

The second reading, from Revelation, "describes the beauty of the heavenly Jerusalem," said Bishop Jugis. "A parish church is a foretaste of the heavenly Jerusalem for two reasons."

They are that the "worship of the Lamb that takes place continuously in the heavenly Jerusalem already takes place in the parish church" at Mass, he said, and the "beauty of the heavenly Jerusalem is reflected in the beauty of the parish church and its furnishings and decorations."

"Both the beauty of the Mass and the church building prepare us to celebrate the fullness of that beauty one day in the

heavenly Jerusalem," he said.

The Scripture reading described Jerusalem gleaming with God's splendor, its radiance like that of a precious stone.

"This parish church, now renovated and enlarged, also gleams today with the splendor of God and is radiant like a precious gem," said Bishop Jugis.

Among the interior features are a tabernacle from Spain, an altar from Italy and four angel statues from Holland.

"I love that Father Gober brought in historical pieces from faraway places," said parishioner Mikey O'Neal. "He put a lot of research and effort into making the church more spiritually connected to those places."

"The changes and beauty within the church are to inspire the people and draw them deeper into the sacred mysteries," said Father Gober.

"As an icon is described as a window into heaven, the new church will be a window and reflection of the heavenly Jerusalem," he said.

## Humble beginnings

In 1984 the Diocese of Charlotte purchased a 10-acre tract of land facing Grandfather Mountain. Fundraising efforts began and in 1987, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue gave approval for building to begin.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new St. Bernadette Mission Dec. 31, 1988. Bishop Donoghue dedicated the building in June 1989. During the summer of 1999, a grotto honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Bernadette was dedicated.

Father Gober was appointed pastor of St. Lucien Church and St. Bernadette Mission in 2003.

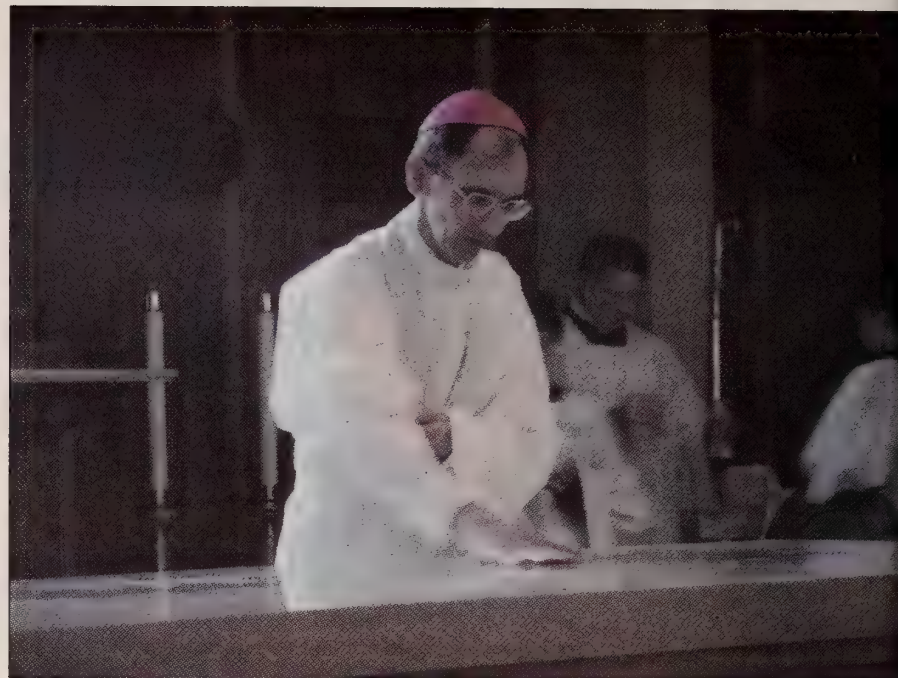
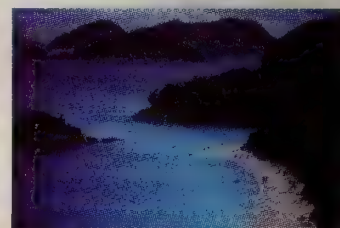


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis anoints the altar with chrism during the rededication Mass at St. Bernadette Church in Linville Sept. 19. More photos online at [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

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## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

# Library of Congress offers access to 800 years of biblical evolution

BIBLE, from page 1

to closely examine the Giant Bible of Mainz and the Gutenberg Bible.

The computerized display intrigued her and once at the site she wanted to know more about these giant books filled with Scriptures.

"You can read it and you can flip through the pages just by touching the screen," she said. "Look, this one was handwritten by monks. It's so cool."

This is the kind of excitement library officials were hoping to generate in the spring of 2008 when they set up the hi-tech apparatus next to the two famous centuries-old bibles, which are glass-encased and out of the reach of human

touch, said Erin Allen, a staff member in the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress, the largest library in the world.

"Are these the only two Bibles in the library, or are there more?" the curious Savannah asked her mother, who shrugged her shoulders indicating she didn't know the answer.

The Library of Congress actually has thousands of Bibles in more than 150 languages, about 1,500 of which are considered significant editions for their rare or historic value, said Mark Dimunation, chief of the library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division.

Some of the oldest Bibles in the collection date back to the 13th century and were handwritten by scribes, Dimunation said.

In the Lessing & J. Rosenwald Room — a space separated from the Great Hall in the library's Thomas Jefferson

Building by a maze of hallways, an elevator shaft and a locked golden-caged door — the rare books chief showed a reporter and photographer from Catholic News Service some of the most significant Bible editions in the Library of Congress collection.

Though most of the Bibles are more than 100 years old, the library official was generous with the accessibility of the books, some with worn leather, pigskin, embroidered or velvet bindings, often complete with gold-leafed pages of yellowing paper.

"They are all accessible to the public," Dimunation said. "As long as you are over the age of 18 and registered (with the library) to be a reader, you can come in and look at them."

And those who have valid research agendas are permitted to page through the rare books, under proper supervision, Allen said.

"The library gets about one research request a week to pour over the rare Bibles," Dimunation said.

The most celebrated Bibles in the

collection are the Gutenberg and the Giant Bible of Mainz, which are proudly featured in the Great Hall, but some of the rarest Bibles, written in languages ranging from Hawaiian to Mongolian, are housed on shelves far removed from the main exhibits.

The Giant Bible of Mainz is one of the last great handwritten Bibles of Europe and it represents hundreds of years of work disseminating the word of God, according to the library's Web site.

The Gutenberg Bible is the first great book printed in Western Europe from movable metal type and it marks a turning point in the art of bookmaking and consequently in the transition from the Middle Ages to the modern world, the Web site reads.

The rest of the collection — which Dimunation said is ongoing with new acquisitions, and will never be complete — provides readers with an opportunity to witness 800 years of biblical evolution.

Some of the Bibles are considered significant because of the number of copies printed, the volumes that survive or the massive undertaking that was involved in the distribution, such as the Indian Bible, printed in 1663 in Cambridge, Mass., in the Algonquin language, which was used to evangelize Native Americans, Dimunation said.

"This Bible is also significant because it was the first Bible printed in America. There are 16 languages alone in the Bibles from the Thomas Jefferson collection," Dimunation said. "The older Bibles are in Latin. However, we start to see different languages as the years go on, from Hungarian to Arabic. We can reflect on the history of the Bible when we examine these rare and wonderful books."

Though the featured Bibles in the glass-encased exhibits in the library's main hall are as wide as a door frame, some of the Bibles are small enough to fit in an adult hand.

A copy of the Confederate Soldier's Bible printed in 1862 in Augusta, Ga., is small enough to fit in the pocket of a uniform worn by the men who fought for the South in the U.S. Civil War.

The Bible used during the 1861 inauguration of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln isn't necessarily considered a significant book, except for the fact that it was used to swear in the man who is credited with preserving the nation during one of its bleakest periods in history, Dimunation said.

An interesting detail about that Bible is that Roger B. Taney — the first Catholic appointed chief justice of the U.S., the author of the Dred Scott decision that would indirectly lead to the Civil War and a bitter political rival of Lincoln — was required to administer the oath of office to a man he would continue to cross swords with for the next three years.

Most of the rare Bibles were gifts to the library, but others have been purchased, and vary in price depending on their significance, Dimunation said.

"You can't really put a price tag on these books, from a curator's point of view," he said.

"We are a major resource for the study of the Bible. We never talk about the money. It gives people the wrong sense of these books, with texts that remain a valid expression for all sorts of interests," he said.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Moral clarity in an election year

*Editor's note: A version of this column ran Oct. 22, 2004.*

Every election year places added responsibilities and burdens upon us as faithful Catholic citizens. If we are to participate in the world, it is necessary to become acquainted with the pressing issues of the day as well as the candidates who are seeking public office.

We are encouraged by the church to participate willingly, to the extent possible, in worldly affairs. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that "submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country ..." (CCC No. 2240).

In other words, as faithful Catholic citizens, we have a privilege, right and obligation to express our faith by our participation in the electoral process.

As such, let us look at the complex issues to inform our consciences on Election Day. Indeed, our Catholic faith can provide us with guidance as we sift through the moral considerations of electing officials to public service. We could all benefit from a prayerful and reasonable consideration of the task of electing our representatives to office.

Before we evaluate issues, candidates and positions, we must first clarify the role of the conscience. Contrary to popular understanding, one's conscience cannot determine right and wrong. Many people today mistakenly think that "following their conscience" means that they create the moral laws and rules by which to live, as if their conscience were akin to the legislative branch of government.

But the conscience cannot create law. On the contrary, the function of the conscience (built into our human nature by God) is merely to judge whether our particular actions are in conformity with the truth, whether our actions are in accord with God's law or natural law (CCC Nos. 1776-1785).

As such, the conscience resembles the judicial branch of government, rather than the legislative branch. It is only capable of applying already existing law, revealed by God or found in nature itself, to specific situations.

What criteria must we use to make our voting decisions? We are encouraged not to base a vote on a particular party affiliation or our earlier voting habits since many candidates, especially today, do not establish their agenda on traditional party platforms and positions.

We are also encouraged not to base a vote on a particular candidate's appearance, personality or opinion of the media. And we are also encouraged not to vote for candidates who merely claim to be Catholic, since many politicians who claim to practice the Catholic faith

reject basic Catholic moral teaching, which is, in fact, a great sign of a lack of a candidate's integrity.

We are encouraged, therefore, to base our vote on candidates who seek to promote political agenda that are in accord with God's revelation and natural law, especially concerning the human person.

These issues are the most significant because they treat issues of life and death and the very stability of the family and society. They are non-negotiable because each of the issues concerns actions that are always morally wrong, morally illicit and must never be promoted by law.

### Abortion

According to natural reason, abortion is always intrinsically evil and is never to be permitted or tolerated.

This truth also is confirmed by divine revelation and therefore taught by the church without compromise. In fact, the church has consistently taught this ever since the first century and will never change its teaching (see CCC No. 2271).

The catechism states: "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person — among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life" (No. 2270).

And although our modern, secular society and culture uses euphemistic language to conceal the truth — such as "women's rights," health of the mother, population control, the termination of pregnancy, "pro-choice," even the word "abortion" — the harsh truth is that those who promote such social and political programs are promoting the killing of thousands of innocent babies each day.

Each day more than 4,000 innocent children are put to death legally by abortions. Imagine the loss of life greater than the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001 — each day. That is the brutal reality that permeates the society in which we live. We have a very serious obligation to speak out against this evil by not promoting and encouraging it with our vote. To be Catholic is to be pro-life — period. One cannot be pro-abortion and claim to be a practicing Catholic.

### Euthanasia

Closely related to abortion is euthanasia, which usually involves the direct killing of a handicapped, sick or dying person. Like abortion, euthanasia is always morally wrong and illicit and must never be promoted or made licit by law.

In the case of abortion, age does not determine personhood. Likewise, old age does not forfeit the rights and dignities afforded to humans. Moreover, sickness, disease or other handicaps and impairments, including imminent death,

## Guest Column

FATHER  
MATTHEW  
BUETTNER  
GUEST COLUMNIST



do not render human beings non-persons.

It is never permissible to kill oneself (suicide) or assist in another's death (homicide) as in cases of euthanasia, but it is permissible to allow the effects of a disease or illness to run their course if the medical treatment is overly burdensome, dangerous or disproportionate to the expected outcome (Cf. CCC No. 2278).

As in cases of abortion, much confusion and euphemistic language has been employed to obscure the dehumanizing reality of euthanasia. Many who seek its justification and legal acceptance speak of euthanasia as an act of "compassion." However, this is nothing more than a diabolical reversal of the truth. The word "compassion" comes from two Latin words meaning "to suffer with." Oftentimes the desire to commit or to comply with euthanasia comes from the refusal "to suffer with" the patient. Euthanasia is an act that rejects compassion; it is an act that makes "suffering with" a loved one impossible.

### Stem cells, cloning

Akin to abortion and euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research redefines the human person in order to justify the murder of persons for scientific and medical advancements. The problem: extracting the embryonic stem-cells from a living human embryo kills the embryo, thus murdering the human person. The solution: legitimate and highly effective procedures already exist for obtaining human stem cells that do not require killing human beings.

It is well documented that stem cells from bone marrow, placenta and umbilical cords of live births are already in use in treating leukemia and show promise for possible results in treating Parkinson's and other diseases.

Human embryos bear the same rights as every person (No. 2274). In the same manner that the church defends the dignity and legal rights of the human embryo, it also condemns human cloning: "Certain attempts to influence chromosomal or genetic inheritance are not therapeutic but are aimed at producing human beings selected according to sex or other predetermined qualities. Such manipulations are contrary to the personal dignity of the human being and his integrity and identity which are unique and unrepeatable" (No. 2275).

Non-marital means of engendering human life change its generation from an act of procreation to one of reproduction, treating the child as if he or she were a product of a scientific experiment. In other words, in the generation of a child in the marital act, the child is "begotten, not made"; whereas in the case of human cloning, the child is made, not begotten.

### Homosexual 'marriage'

Another evil threatening our society's

stability is homosexual "marriage." While the church does not condemn those struggling with homosexuality and, in fact, advocates that such persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity," nonetheless, the inclination towards persons of the same-sex is "objectively disordered" (No. 2358).

Further, the law of human nature, sacred Scripture and the constant tradition of the church all affirm the truth that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered" (No. 2357). Therefore, while the church respects the dignity of persons, it also encourages them to turn away from sinful acts, live chastely and seek the freedom of Christian perfection as it encourages all who are bound by various spiritual or psychological disorders.

By definition, marriage is the life-long partnership between a man and a woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and education of children. We should support only those candidates who regard the common good of society by protecting the institution of marriage from those who would seek to redefine and destroy it.

### War, capital punishment

While war and capital punishment are concerned with the protection of the common good — a principal duty of the state — they are not intrinsically evil and both can be justified under certain criteria.

The church teaches that "as long as the danger of war persists ... governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed" (No. 2308). "The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good" (No. 2309). Therefore, the church recognizes elected officials have the moral responsibility of protecting citizens, without excluding the possibility of war as a legitimate means of defense.

Similarly, the church recognizes and teaches that the state "has the right and the duty to inflict punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense" (No. 2366) and "the traditional teaching of the church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty" (No. 2367).

Therefore, in both war and capital punishment, the church upholds the state's obligation to protect the common good of its citizens. Neither is preferable. However, there is a fundamental difference between acts that are intrinsically evil and never morally licit, such as abortion, and those that are justified under certain circumstances, such as capital punishment.

We live in difficult times with many serious issues, such as a failing economy, a lingering war, the consistent threat of worldwide terrorism, immigration reform policies and the increasing energy crisis. Yet, none of these compare to the non-negotiable issues affecting the dignity of human life.

We have the opportunity and obligation to elect to public office candidates who will ensure justice and social stability for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable and those unable to speak on their own behalf.

Father Buettner is pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.



# The abortion misconception

Poor prenatal diagnosis often leads mothers to wrong choice

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series on prenatal diagnosis.*

Kelley Wheeler knows how it feels to carry a baby to term following a poor prenatal diagnosis.

Months before her son's birth, a routine ultrasound found an abnormality that had allowed abdominal organs to move up into his chest. This condition, known as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, or CDH, resulted in the crowding of the heart and lungs and made normal growth and development impossible.

Unwilling to consider abortion, Kelly began searching for information regarding available treatment options. She was convinced that Baby Michael could be saved, and she was right. Today Michael is a playful preschooler, running and jumping like any other child his age.

Judy Townsend has a similar story. Her son, John Isaac, was diagnosed with a fetal heart defect known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome, or HLHS, 20 weeks into her pregnancy. HLHS causes a fatal underdevelopment of the left side of the heart.

At diagnosis, little hope was offered for John Isaac's survival, but Judy would not consider abortion. Instead, she sought treatment options because she believed he could be saved and felt she owed her son the best possible chance at life.

Almost a year later, following surgeries and even a few setbacks, John Isaac Townsend is doing very well. Despite the requirement of one more surgery, the prognosis his mother was given bears little resemblance to the promise of the

smiling baby she now holds.

That is the problem with the connection between poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD) and the abortions that follow. The grim medical prognosis often provided robs parents of hope, and that — coupled with a fear of the unknown — make carrying to term seem unbearable.

The truth gets lost that some fetal defects, though lethal, can be treated successfully. Thinking that a PPD is an ending, approximately 80 percent of parents choose to abort their unborn babies.

My world was turned upside down by the news of a PPD in 2000. Having declined an abortion, I too focused on the hope of treatment for my unborn son. In that pursuit, Tanner had two surgical procedures "in utero," and I drove 80 miles round trip two times a week for amnio-infusions that would support healthy lung development.

I met with pediatric nephrologists and researched dialysis and kidney transplants, and I even toured the children's hospital where Tanner would be treated after birth. With no regret, I did everything I could do to give Tanner the best possible chance at life.

That's not to say that carrying to term was easy. It was a time of indescribable anguish and grief. My resilience was tested everyday. I had to rely on family and friends for support and encouragement, and often even strangers for the kindness of prayer.

I was pressured by medical providers to reconsider abortion, which left me feeling unsupported. Often the burden

## Life Issues Forum

RENEE NOVICK  
PIERSON  
GUEST COLUMNIST

felt overwhelming, and at those times I would cling to my faith that God would not leave me to bear this cross alone.

I somehow always found the faith and strength for the day I was living, and enough trust that tomorrow God would provide the same.

Like Kelley and Judy, I never lost hope that Tanner could be saved, and when he was born my heart overflowed with love at first sight of him. But quickly the news was bad.

His beautiful life lasted for 36 hours, for despite all my best efforts, his kidneys could not be repaired.

Sometimes there is the misperception that only those parents whose babies live will feel positive about the experience of carrying to term. Sadly, that supports the notion that abortion is somehow easier. I couldn't disagree more.

Whereas Kelly and Judy's stories might have haunted me had I given up on Tanner too soon, they provide instead the best possible argument for having hoped. I wouldn't change a thing I did despite our very different outcomes.

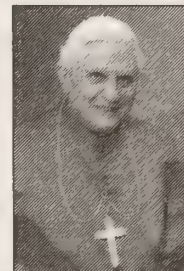
I miss Tanner every day, but I would never trade the gift of those brief newborn hours in which he knew the comfort of my arms. In the end, there is tremendous peace in knowing that I mothered my son to the best of my ability, even if just for the brief time that he was mine.

*Pierson is a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.*

## Pope: Faith based on personal encounter with Jesus through the church

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For St. Paul and for all Christians, faith is not based on a myth, but on a personal encounter with the risen Jesus through the church, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Sept. 24 weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict focused on St. Paul's relationship with the Twelve Apostles first chosen by Jesus to preach the word of God to the ends of the earth.

Because St. Paul never met Jesus during his public, earthly life, he needed to consult with and be confirmed by the first disciples who lived with Jesus and were chosen by him, the pope said.

In his writings, the pope said, St. Paul makes it clear that he recognizes the primacy of the first apostles and that the teaching he is handing on is the teaching of the apostles.

St. Paul makes clear his position that the Eucharist is the center of the church's life and that Christ "is risen and continues to live in the Eucharist," the pope said.

*Here is the text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's catechesis we turn again to the life of St. Paul and consider his relationship with the Twelve Apostles.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul speaks of his visits to Jerusalem where he consulted Peter, James and John, reputed to be the "pillars" of the church. Paul's mission to the Gentiles needed to be confirmed and guaranteed by those who had been disciples of Jesus during his earthly life, and they offered to him and to Barnabas the right hand of fellowship.

Paul passed on the living tradition that he had received: the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, his death and resurrection, and his appearances to Peter and to the Twelve.

Paul emphasizes that Jesus died "for our sins," he offered himself to the Father in order to deliver us from sin and death. And now that Jesus has risen from the dead, he is living in his church and in the Eucharist, where we continue to encounter him.

Just as Paul's teaching is rooted in his experience on the road to Damascus, and in his knowledge of Christ acquired through the church, so too our faith is grounded, not on myths or pious legends, but on the words and deeds of Jesus of Nazareth, and on our encounter with the risen Lord, present in the life of his church.

# The rabbit and the wolf

A tale of love and St. Francis of Assisi

As the Diocese of Charlotte celebrates the fourth Eucharistic Congress Oct 3-4, the whole world celebrates the "Poverello" (or, little person) of Assisi — the feast of St. Francis of Assisi is Oct. 4.

What is peculiar about this saint is the fact that he is admired not only by Catholics but by Christians, Muslims and Hindus. Among his qualities was his humble holiness. I like him because he embraced the whole world, made of people, animals and nature. He saw and loved all of these as a reflection of God.

For instance, St. Bonaventure related to us in his "Legenda Major" (VIII:8) that when Francis was in Greccio, he was given a small hare, which he put down to run free where it pleased. And at his call, it leapt quickly into his lap.

He nurtured it with the pious affection of his heart and, after warning it with gentle talk not to let itself get caught again, he let it go free. But as often as he placed it on the ground to run away, it would return to him as if it perceived with some hidden sense the piety he had for it. Finally, at his command, his brothers carried the rabbit away to a safer place of solitude.

In the same way, on an island in the lake of Perugia, also known as Lago Trasimeno, a rabbit was caught and offered to St. Francis. Although it had fled from everyone else, it entrusted itself to his hands and heart as if to natural security.

Then, in the "Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi" (Ch.21), there is the fascinating story of the wolf of Gubbio — a fearsome and ferocious wolf that devoured both animals and humans. The citizens were in fear as this wolf came near the town, where St. Francis was staying. He decided to go out against advice and meet the wolf.

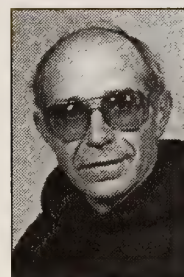
When the wolf saw him, it ran forward with its mouth open. As it neared, St. Francis made the sign of the cross toward the wolf and said, "Brother Wolf, come here. I command you on behalf of Christ that you do not harm me or anyone."

Immediately the fearsome wolf closed its mouth and stopped running, and became meek as a lamb.

"Brother Wolf," Francis continued, "I want to make peace between you and these people ... I promise that I will have food given to you constantly, as long as

## Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN  
C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



you live, and you promise me that you will never harm any human person nor any animal. Do you promise this?"

The wolf bowed his head as a sign of promise. St. Francis reached out his hand, and the wolf lifted its right paw and tamely placed it on top of the hand.

The story goes on to describe the behavior of the wolf and the people of Gubbio in remarkable detail. What we learn is that when we really love, we become contagious with it.

As Christians, we want everybody to love God. In St. Francis' "Canticle of All Creatures," he invites the sun, moon, stars, water, wind and air to praise God above all: "Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks, and serve him with great humility." Happy feast of St. Francis!

*Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*





# DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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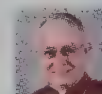
## FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Greeting - Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
- Concert of Sacred Music for the Liturgical Season featuring a diocesan choir with 120 voices of praise
- Keynote Speaker - His Eminence John Patrick Cardinal Foley, D.D., Ph.D.
- Catholic Shops



## SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour - Homilist Archbishop John F. Donoghue
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm - Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Archbishop John F. Donoghue



Bishop Peter J. Jugis

## GENERAL TRACK SPEAKERS



**Tarek Saab** — "Faith Gut Check" — Tarek rose to fame as a contestant on the popular TV show "The Apprentice." A dynamic speaker, Tarek focuses on chastity, modesty, business ethics, pornography, abortion and prayer.



**Fr. Richard Ho Lung** — "Servant of the Poor" — Fr. Ho Lung is the founder of The Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to joyful service of the poorest of the poor.



**Denis McNamara, M. Arch. H., Ph. D.** — "Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture" — Denis is an architectural historian who will show us how the role of sacred architecture affects our lives.



**Sr. Terese Auer, O.P.** — "Proclaiming Christ Through Our Reverence for the Human Person" — Sr. Terese is the Bioethics Chair of Pope John Paul the Great High School in Dumfries, Virginia.

## HISPANIC TRACK SPEAKERS



**Roberto Ramirez**  
"Predicamos a Cristo Crucificado"



**Hna. Bertha López Chávez**  
"Jesucristo y los más Necesitados"



**Lupita Venegas**  
"Jesucristo en la Vida del Laico"

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OCTOBER 3, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 41

## Perspectives

The heart of prejudice;  
effective parish leadership;  
letters to the editor

| PAGES 14-15

## Respect Life month



PHOTO BY CNS

This poster is part of the materials for the U.S. bishops' 2008-09 Respect Life program, distributed by the Office of Pro-Life Activities, which has as its theme "Hope and Trust in Life." The theme is centered around Pope Benedict XVI's message during his celebrated visit to the United States in April.

See the story page 5

## CATHOLICS AND THE CAMPAIGN



CNS ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

A man holding a rosary with the U.S. flag as a backdrop is silhouetted in this photo illustration. The U.S. bishops' document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" seeks to provide a blueprint on how Catholic social teaching should affect political participation by Catholics.

## Comparing the candidates' views with church teaching

CHARLOTTE — Abortion. Immigration. The Iraq war. Education. The environment.

Do you know where the presidential candidates really stand on these issues? Do you know what the Catholic Church really teaches on them?

The U.S. bishops' document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," seeks to provide a blueprint on how Catholic social teaching should affect political participation by Catholics.

With this issue, The Catholic News & Herald begins a series of articles examining the political views of presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain in regard to "Faithful Citizenship" and Catholic social teaching.

See story on page 9

## CAMPAIGN '08

### N.C. bishops release candidate survey, statement on voter preparation

Bishops Jugis, Burbidge  
encourage informed voting

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic bishops of North Carolina are continuing to encourage their flocks to be faithful citizens.

As a follow-up to their July launching of Catholic Voice NC, an initiative to give the

See VOTING, page 8

## St. Gabriel School celebrates golden anniversary

Parish school provides Catholic education  
for past 50 years

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "The greatest privilege we have is to pass on and share our faith with our children," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Fostering faith through Catholic education has been the mission of St. Gabriel

School for the past 50 years.

Father O'Rourke celebrated a Mass Sept. 27 honoring the school's golden anniversary. Concelebrating were former pastors Msgr. Richard Bellow and Father Edward Sheridan, along with Father Luis Osorio, current parochial vicar.

See SCHOOL, page 12



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Friends of St. Gabriel School in Charlotte browse memorabilia highlighting its 50-year history after Mass Sept. 27.

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## About discipleship

★ Ongoing workshop explores  
RCIA process

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## Culture Watch

Book on politics and Catholics;  
Paul Newman lauded

| PAGES 10-11

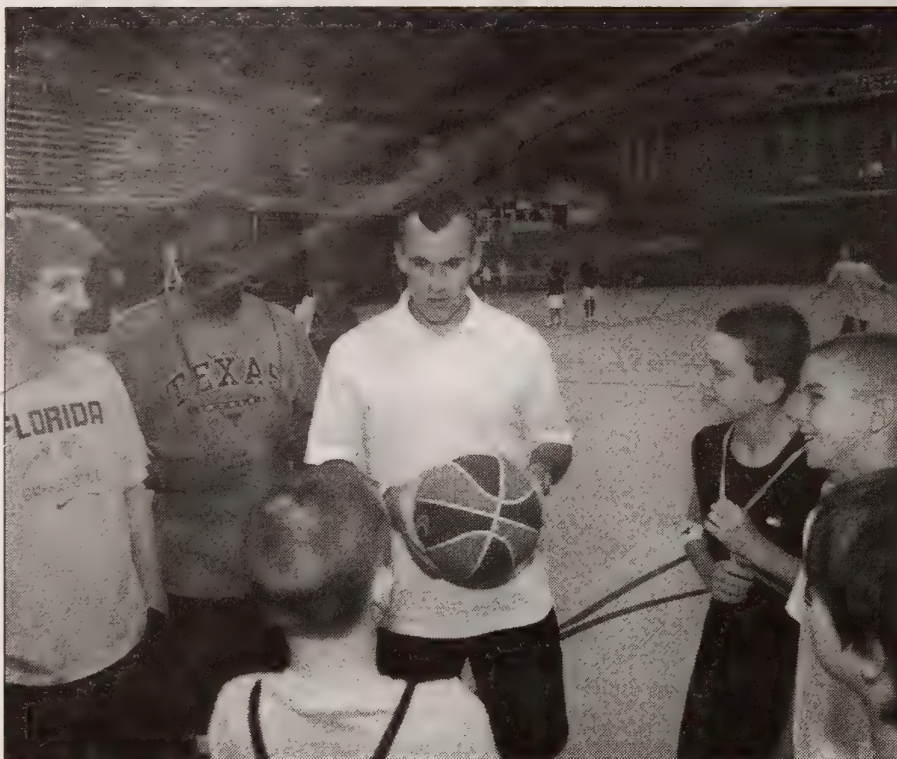
**Celebrate the  
Eucharistic Congress  
Oct. 3-4!**  
See full coverage in next  
week's issue.



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## COACHING CATHOLICISM



CNS PHOTO BY RANDY BATISTA, ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC

University of Florida head basketball coach Billy Donovan, a Catholic, talks with youngsters at the O'Connell Center in Gainesville, Fla., during one of his annual summer basketball camp sessions in late June.

## Faith is key to success, says Florida basketball coach

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (CNS) — The University of Florida's head basketball coach, Billy Donovan, said he is a "big believer that everything starts with God."

The coach of the Florida Gators knows a thing or two about good starts with 285 wins in 12 seasons and national championships in 2006 and 2007. In the past 40 years, Donovan is among three college coaches to have won back-to-back NCAA titles.

But along with winning games, Donovan, a Catholic, said he also has a passion for helping young people find faith, success and happiness.

During the summer, without the distraction of daily team practices and meetings, Donovan relishes his chance to work with young people at his annual basketball camps. Even though he doesn't spend much time with the campers, he said it's the perfect opportunity to "recharge his batteries" after a long season, reflect on his faith and speak to young people.

"Teenagers have so much in front of them today," said Donovan. "The big thing that I've always tried to talk to our children about and other teenagers is to try to make good decisions."

Donovan said he talks about having faith and "being fair and respectful to everybody's relationship with God."

"If your faith is strong and you're living a faith-based life, the chances are that you will make better decisions and

you're probably going to be happier," he said.

He says he tries to talk to youngsters about "taking the strengths, talents and gifts God gave them and utilizing them to help other people." He also asks them to "remember five words: peace, love, hope, joy and forgiveness!"

If people could "feel those five things every single day," he added, "we would be so happy nothing else would make a difference."

Donovan said faith is a "gift from God."

"To me, it's something that takes away our insecurities, our fears, our self-doubt and our worrying all the time," he continued. "I think it's easy to have faith when things are going really well, but I think in everything we do, we worry about the next day, our jobs, our friends, our children, our health, our families."

He stressed that it's important to keep one's faith in tough times, too. The 43-year-old coach encourages young people to pray and read the Bible.

Since he works at a public institution where a lot of different religious denominations are represented, Donovan is careful not to force religious beliefs on anyone.

"I've found that most of the kids I've coached believe in a higher power," no matter what their faith, he said. "Just taking time to give thanks to God is always a great thing."

## Bishop hopes new initiative can bring peace between U.S. and Muslims

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new report calling for stronger diplomatic relations between the United States and Muslims around the world is a step toward peace, said Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore.

"It offers a very good approach to what can be done" and also stresses that the divide between the United States and the Muslim world is "not as wide as people make it out to be," said the bishop, one of 34 American leaders who produced the 146-page document "Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations With the Muslim World."

The report was created by the Leadership Group on U.S.-Muslim Engagement, which included representatives from religious, business, military, foreign policy, academic, foundation and nonprofit circles.

The group released the report Sept. 24, a day after briefing members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and

members of Congress on its key points.

The project involved 18 months of examining various polls and studies of Muslim and American attitudes and coming up with possible solutions for improving relations, including not only more diplomacy but also a major investment in economic development in Muslim countries that would create more jobs for youths.

The report urges the next U.S. administration to take immediate steps. It calls on the next president to renounce the use of torture and to appoint a special envoy to facilitate negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Bishop Madden said he only became involved in the initiative in recent months but that he was impressed by the work of the committee members and the body's bipartisan nature.

"We all signed off on the document, even though there wasn't always full agreement," he said.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

BISCOE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at Our Lady of the Americas Church, 298 Farmers Market Rd., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "parishes." For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and Our Lady of the Americas Church.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — To honor the 150th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes and the miracle of the sun in Fatima, a public rosary will be held Oct. 11 at 12 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of Pack Place Education Arts & Science Center, 2 S. Pack Sq. This rosary is in conjunction with 3,000 others nationwide and is coordinated by The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign. For more information, contact Lisena Maria Moss at (828) 254-4526 or [jemoss@charter.net](mailto:jemoss@charter.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — A presentation on "The Catholic

Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "parishes." For more information, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and St. Elizabeth Church.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The semi-annual rosary rally will be held Sunday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. Come honor Our Lady by participating in this 35-year tradition. The event includes recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Father Roger Arnsperger, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, will be the homilist. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning Adult Spirituality series takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "The Sacrament of the Present Moment: Living Deeply," will be held Oct. 13. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant midday prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican's security force to join Interpol

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After setting up two new anti-terrorism units this year that work closely with international police, the Vatican's security force has plans to join Interpol.

Vatican Radio reported Sept. 28 that the Vatican's security force will join the international police organization sometime before Oct. 10 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The announcement of the alliance was made during a Sept. 27 celebration at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. Pope Benedict XVI briefly appeared at the celebration and gave his "sincere thanks for the competence and dedication" of the security force, or gendarme corps.

The feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, the corps' patron saint, is Sept. 29.

The corps' director, Domenico Giani, said the force also is looking into forging an "agreement of cooperation with the Italian police," reported Vatican Radio.

The Vatican and Pope Benedict

have been named as potential targets by extremist groups in recent years. Although the Vatican has downplayed the threats, it also has beefed up security, adding metal detectors for all visitors to St. Peter's Basilica and attendees at papal events.

The gendarme corps also has been deployed at Vatican territories outside Vatican City, in particular at Rome's patriarchal basilicas.

The gendarme corps, which has about 130 members, works in close collaboration with the Swiss Guard, especially during events involving the pope.

Earlier this year the gendarme corps started working more closely with Interpol, and in June Giani told reporters that the arrangement marked a big step forward for Vatican security.

The collaboration gives the Vatican access to a large data bank of suspects, the latest information on criminal or subversive organizations, and information on the latest anti-terrorism operational procedures.

Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — A four-week Catholic Scripture study on "Humanae Vitae," Pope Paul VI's encyclical on contraception and the role of procreation in marriage, will be offered at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Classes begin Oct. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. and will meet weekly through Nov. 6 in classrooms 1 & 2 of the activity center. For more information, contact Brian and Angela Williams at angiegirl67@yahoo.com or (704) 847-7311. Deadline for registration is Oct. 9.

CHARLOTTE — Elizabeth Ministry, in conjunction with the diocesan Respect Life Office, is hosting "God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis" Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. The conference is to help the Catholic community better encourage parents to carry to term after a poor prenatal diagnosis. Registration is required. For information, contact Tracy Winsor at (704) 543-4780 or e-mail ohboys@carolina.rr.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — The religious education department at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., presents "A Family Evening of Love and Prayer" with Father Frederick Pompei, Oct. 6, 6-8:15 p.m. The evening begins with a pasta dinner, program to follow at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP to Donna Smith at dsmith18@bellsouth.net, or call (704) 948-1306.

**GASTONIA VICARIATE**

GASTONIA — St. Michael School, 704 St. Michael's Lane, will host a *Road Race and Fun Fair*, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Great fun for all ages, including rides, games, bingo, food and more. General admission is free. For more information, go to [www.smsgastonia.com](http://www.smsgastonia.com).

LINCOLNTON — All are invited to attend the fall parish mission, "Three Lessons of St. Paul," presented by Augustinian Father Augustine Esposito at St. Dorothy Church, 148 St. Dorothy's Lane, Oct. 13-15, at 6 p.m. There will be holy hour Monday, penance service Tuesday and Mass Wednesday.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 3-4

Fourth annual Eucharistic Congress

Charlotte Convention Center

Oct. 5-10

Annual priests' retreat

Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley

Oct. 11 (6 p.m.)

Annual retreat dinner for deacons and wives

Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Oct. 12 (7 p.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation

Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

# Vatican official: Death penalty support denies basic Christian belief

ROME (CNS) — Support for the death penalty is a denial of the basic Christian belief that God can turn any person from a life of sin, a Vatican official told a group of justice ministers, judges and lawmakers examining positions on capital punishment.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, spoke Sept. 29 at the conference "No Justice Without Life," which gathered representatives from 16 countries in Rome for a daylong meeting.

The conference, sponsored by the Sant'Egidio Community, included government officials from Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Kenya, Benin, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines and Kazakhstan.

Archbishop Marchetto said the United Nations' 2007 resolution urging a moratorium on the use of the death penalty was the "first necessary step" to abolishing capital punishment completely.

The moratorium, he said,

should give countries who still have death penalty laws time to "adopt appropriate instruments of law" to ensure the most serious criminals are not a threat to society and to increase the foundations of "a culture of life," paving the way for the abolition of the death penalty.

"Despite everything, the church has always and will always defend the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death as a universal value," the archbishop said.

If one accepts that respect for human life reflects the reality that God created people in his image and likeness, he said, then "the death penalty increasingly appears to be an unacceptable instrument even more than being a useless and dangerous one."

"As Christians, how can we accept that someone be denied the hope of redemption?" the archbishop asked.

"A man or a woman who made a mistake, who committed a crime, no matter how brutal, must have the possibility of being forgiven — while serving a tough sentence — and of living in hope," he said.

# Exchanging faith



CNS PHOTO BY GREG TARCZYNSKI

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron of Oakland, Calif., Rabbi Steven Chester and Imam Faheem Shuaibe exchange sacred scriptures during a civic and interfaith service at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland Sept. 26. The cathedral, dedicated the previous day, had been under construction since 2005, and replaces St. Francis de Sales Cathedral, which was damaged beyond repair in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

# First saplings of Vatican reforestation project to be planted

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The first saplings of the Vatican Climate Forest, a reforestation project to offset the Vatican's carbon dioxide emissions, will be planted in November.

The U.S.-based Planktos Inc. and its Hungarian partner, KlimaFa Ltd., are restoring more than 600 acres of forests in Hungary along the Tisza River to offset emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2). The two companies earn money by selling greenhouse-gas mitigation credits to individuals and businesses. Whatever carbon dioxide emissions an individual or company cannot eliminate can be offset

by planting trees or buying the carbon mitigation credits of a company that plants trees or takes other action to eliminate carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Planktos and KlimaFa donated to the Vatican enough mitigation credits to offset the Vatican's annual CO2 production, estimated at 10,000 tons. The monetary value is almost \$250,000.

The planting of 125,600 oak, white willow, black poplar and wild fruit trees would begin in November to compensate for the greenhouse gases emitted by heating and cooling Vatican buildings and driving Vatican cars.



# A Bible for every taste, but are they piquing Catholic interest?

*Despite variety, only one Bible authorized for English-language Mass*

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series on the Bible.*

WASHINGTON — These days you can get a Bible that coincides with pretty much any interest.

For the environmentally conscious, there is the Green Bible, complete with soy-based inks, recycled paper and special features that trace Scripture's environmental themes.

For the young and hip, there's the Manga Bible, illustrated in the popular Asian comic-book style and available in versions dubbed "raw" (with commentary and instruction on the manga style) or "extreme" (with the New Testament text written out).

You can listen to "The Word of Promise," an audiobook of the New Testament that features the voices of leading actors like Jim Caviezel, Marisa Tomei, Michael York, Richard Dreyfuss and Terence Stamp as the voice of God.

There are Bibles aimed at couples, students, children, women and participants in just about every sport you can imagine — skiers, skateboarders, surfers and on and on.

The custom Bible program at Thomas Nelson, one of the largest Bible publishers in the United States, allows groups to raise money by creating and selling Bibles that include "special study notes from the ministry's leader that will encourage and equip members and donors in their spiritual walk." One group created the "Cowboys & Cowgirls Holy Bible" through that program.

Thomas Nelson also markets a variety of "Biblezines" — glossy magazines with names such as "Revolve," "Refuel" and "Divine Health" that team New Testament passages with self-help articles such as "240 ways to walk the walk," "Are you dating a godly guy?" and "Cures the Bible way."

But not all Bibles are created equal. And not every Bible reflects a Catholic understanding of Scripture.

## Catholic text

Although Catholics may read any version of the Bible for their personal use, the Bible authorized for use in English-language Masses in U.S. Catholic churches is the New American Bible, for which the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine holds licensing rights.

The confraternity operates out of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Publishing.

Mary Elizabeth Sperry, associate director for USCCB permissions and New American Bible utilization, handles each request to use all or part of the NAB text, using guidelines developed by the membership of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

She refers any borderline requests back to the confraternity's board of control, made up of Scripture scholars appointed

by the confraternity's president.

Requests that would be turned down are those that "interpret the Bible in a way not consonant with Catholic teaching or do not reflect the integrity of the Catholic text," Sperry said.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine currently has licensing agreements with publishers of the New American Bible in Korea, India, Philippines, the United States and "most of Anglophone Africa," she said, and other agreements are in the works.

The U.S. situation is rather unique because "we are one of the few publishers that controls a copyright but does not publish" a Bible itself, Sperry said.

When a new translation of the Old Testament is completed — the hoped-for date is sometime this fall — Sperry predicts "an explosion" in the licensing and publication of so-called "niche Bibles" for Catholic women, couples, youths and other groups.

"Catholics want to have the same choices that their Protestant friends have, but they want to have a Catholic text," she said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

## Reading the Bible

Catholics' interest in the Bible still lags behind that of their Protestant counterparts, however, according to polling in recent years.

The Barna Group found in its 2006 survey of religious behaviors and beliefs that 47 percent of Americans reported reading the Bible in a typical week, outside church services.

That was the highest Bible readership since the evangelical polling firm began asking the question in the 1980s.

The number had been as low as 31 percent in 1995, according to the series of surveys, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.

But a survey this spring by LeMoyn College in Syracuse, N.Y., and Zogby International found that nearly two-thirds of adult Catholics said they never read the Bible (31.6 percent) or read it only a few times a year (31.3 percent).

Only 8.4 percent said they read the Bible daily; another 14 percent said they read it at least once a week.

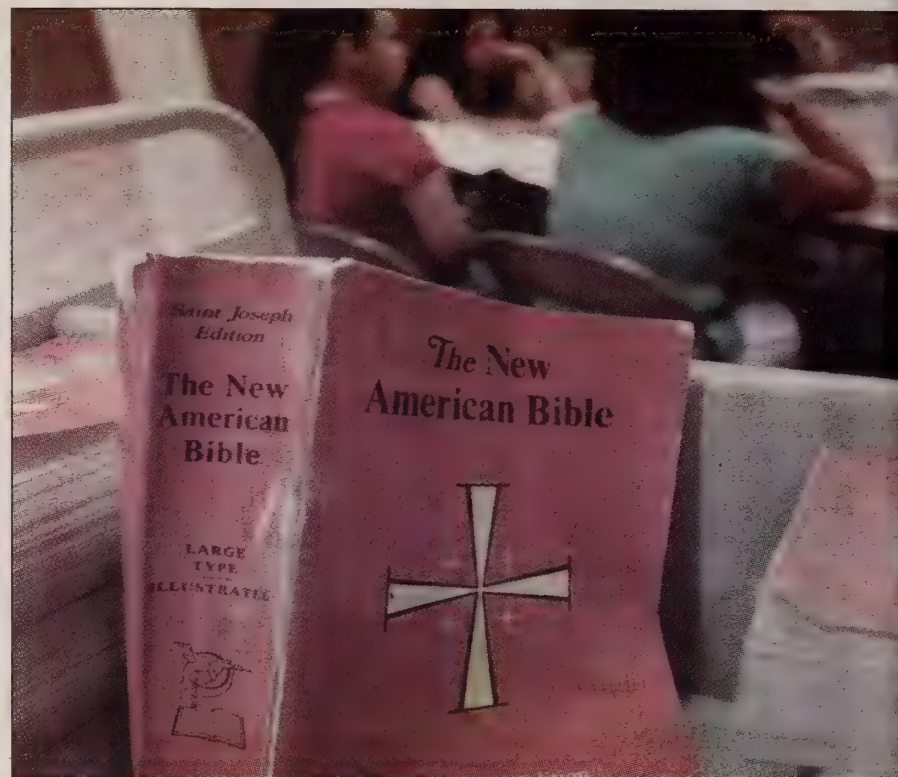
A 2005 survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington found that 87 percent of adult Catholics in the United States said they had a Bible in their home, but 54 percent said they had never read it outside Mass in the past 12 months.

Another 28 percent said they read it less than once a month and only 2 percent said they read it daily.

The margin of error for the LeMoyn/Zogby survey was plus or minus 2.6 percentage points; for the CARA poll it was plus or minus 2.76 percentage points.

## Other sources

But Catholics may be going to sources other than the printed word for



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERITZ

A worn edition of the New American Bible rests on a book cart during a New Testament class at St. Luke Church in Brentwood, N.Y., in July. The New American Bible, often called the Catholic Bible, is the version authorized for use in English-language Masses in the United States.

Bible reading, if the Web site of the USCCB is any indication.

In the first six months of 2008, the New American Bible page on the USCCB Web site had 8.7 million hits — 70 percent of the 12.4 million hits to the entire Web site.

And podcasts of the daily Bible readings were downloaded nearly 1 million times during that period.

It's unclear how many of those Web visitors were Catholics but an informal poll of visitors to the NAB page over two months in 2007 found that more than half of the respondents identified themselves as parishioners or parish volunteers.

More than 90 percent reported attending Mass at least weekly. Also difficult to gauge is the number of Bibles published each year and to date.

Luke Timothy Johnson, the R.W. Woodruff professor of New Testament and Christian origins at Emory University in Atlanta, has estimated that the Bible has been printed some 5 billion times since the early 1800s and translated into

more than 2,000 languages.

The publishing unit of the New York-based American Bible Society said the "best estimate" for Bible sales and distribution worldwide is well more than 100 million per year, although the figures are not fully reported.

There are dozens of English translations of the Bible.

"If the Bible were tracked in terms of best-seller lists, it would pretty much be a constant at the top of that list, week after week," said Tamara Collins, public relations officer of the society.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, a worldwide interdenominational movement that sends translators as missionaries to remote areas where the Bible has not been translated into the local language, estimates that some or all of the Bible has been translated into 2,426 of the 6,912 languages spoken in the world. The nonprofit organization is named for John Wycliffe, who became the first person to translate the Bible into English in the late 1300s.

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## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or kmmoore@charlottediocese.org.



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## 'Hope and Trust in Life'

*Respect Life program brings attention to words of Pope Benedict XVI*

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Hope and Trust in Life" is the theme for the 2008-09 Respect Life program, centered around Pope Benedict XVI's message during his celebrated visit to the United States in April.

A new packet of materials distributed by the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities includes pamphlets, a flier containing important points made by Pope Benedict during his April 15-20 U.S. visit and a CD with full-length versions of articles on a variety of life-related topics, with recommended resources.

All are linked to the pope's message of hope and trust as an antidote to what he called "America's brand of secularism."

The Respect Life program packet mirrors the range of pro-life issues that are necessary for Catholics to comprehend regarding their church's beliefs. The topics include:

— The false hope of embryonic stem-cell research and the real hope offered by research using adult stem cells, outlined by Maureen Condit, a researcher and associate professor in the department of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

— The dangers of advance directives that presume in favor of withdrawal of medical treatment, written by Stephen Mikochik, a professor at Temple University Law School and chairman-elect of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.

— Conscience and the Catholic voter, by Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine.

— "Pornography: What's the

Problem?" by Mark Houck, co-founder and president of a lay apostolate called The King's Men.

— A reflection on the African-American family and the culture of life, by Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of Washington, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on African-American Affairs and a member of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

— Male grief and trauma following abortion, by Vincent Rue, a psychotherapist who is co-director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss in Jacksonville, Fla.

The packet also contains a liturgy guide, program models and notable pro-life quotes, in both English and Spanish.

The Committee on Pro-Life Activities creates this package annually to encourage schools, religious education programs and Catholic institutions and organizations to use these materials to help spread the Catholic Church's pro-life message.

Although the Respect Life program is year-round, October is observed as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October, Oct. 5 this year, is designated as Respect Life Sunday by the Catholic Church in the United States.

To mark the day, parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte are participating in Life Chains on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5. Parishioners will stand along property lines of churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns as a sign of support for life.

They will hold pro-life signs with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

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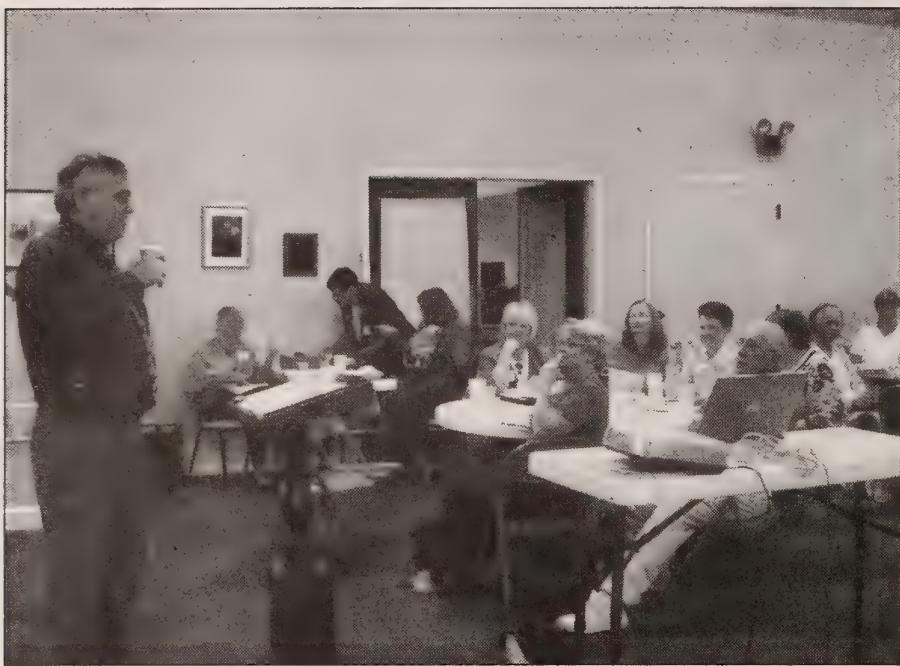
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**For Information, Reservations & Brochure Call 7 Days a Week:**



## Discussing the framework



COURTESY PHOTO

Daniel Mulhall, a former staff member for the U.S. bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, presents the doctrinal framework for high school catechesis during a diocesan Education Vicariate in-service day at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Sept. 25.

Mulhall's presentation was based on "Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age," which was approved by the U.S. bishops at their November 2007 meeting.

The document sets the framework for material that should be covered in high school religion classes in Catholic high schools, parish religious education or youth ministry programs and for home-schooled Catholic teenagers.

The core curriculum, outlined in the document, includes a format for teaching about who Jesus is, how he is revealed in Scripture, his mission and how the church continues it, encounters with Jesus in the sacraments and how to follow the example of Jesus in modern life.

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

## Fires of faith

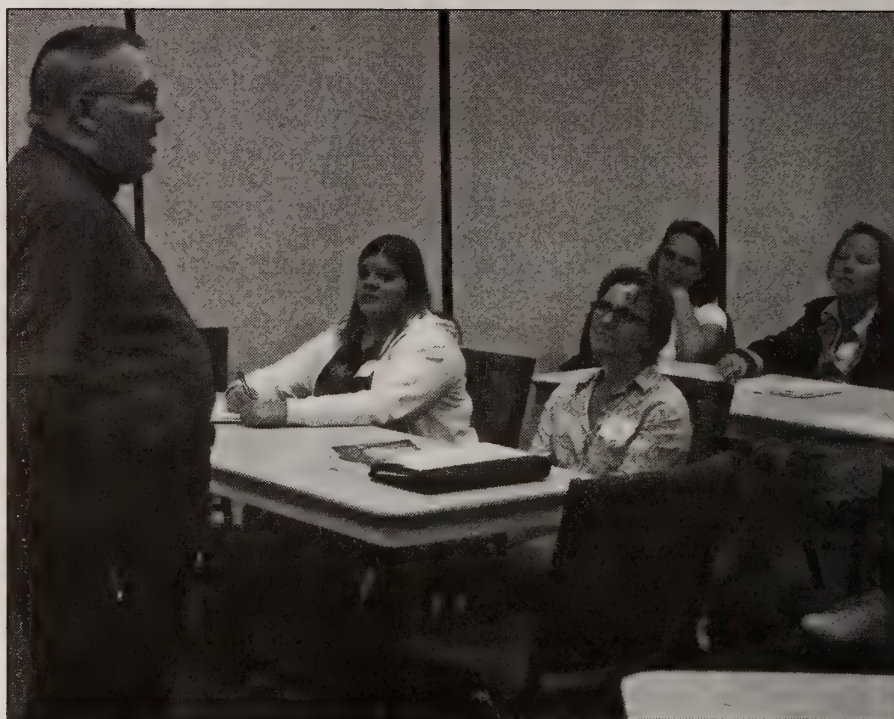


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Fred Scarletto, a permanent deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, leads a class on the sacraments during the 14th annual Lighting the Fires of Faith at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Sept. 20.

The event, sponsored by the North Regional Office of faith formation in the Diocese of Charlotte, provides catechists the opportunity to enhance their teaching skills and knowledge of Catholicism.

According to Sister of Providence Betty Paul, the northern region coordinator of faith formation, 180 catechists and presenters attended the event.

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**ITALIAN HERITAGE NIGHT**  
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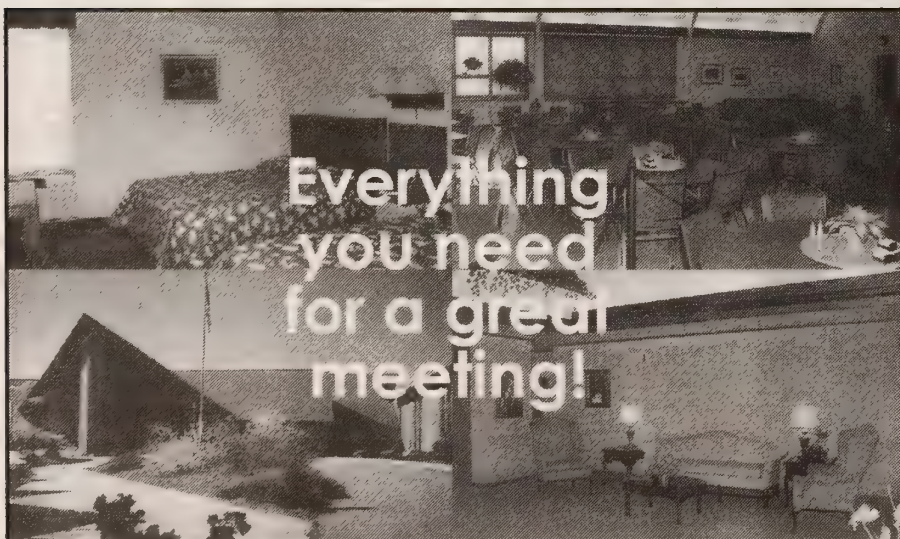
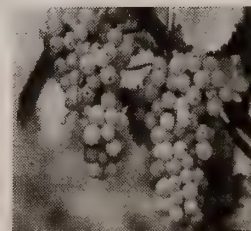
We'll be celebrating the unity of our faith through the diversity of our ethnicity. Come share in a covered dish supper of Italian cuisine as we enjoy the many fine gifts Italians brought to America.

A highlight of this evening will be a presentation by Justin Catanosa, author of *My Cousin the Saint*. "A glorious book! Part spiritual journey, part detective story, part travelogue." (James Martin, SJ; author)

**Andiamo!  
Andiamo!**

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# 'About discipleship, not membership'

Ongoing program explores RCIA process

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH  
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — "Susan" and "Jack" are falling in love, but not with each other. They're falling in love with God.

Susan, who has never been baptized or had any experience of church, has been impressed with co-workers who seem to have a more peaceful, joyful attitude than other people she knows.

When asked, they tell her it's a result of their Catholic faith. Susan goes to visit their pastor and tells him she wants what her co-workers have.

Jack has been married to Linda for six years. Linda is a practicing Catholic; Jack was baptized and grew up in another Christian faith tradition, but didn't strongly participate in that tradition. He believes that it's important for families to worship together, so he attends Mass every Sunday with his family.

Jack helps greet people outside the church before Mass, assists with taking up the collection and is a member of the parish team that cooks dinner two Saturday evenings a month at the local soup kitchen. Now he wants to be in full communion with the parish community.

Learning more about how to help people embrace the Catholic faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the purpose of the four-workshop program, "The Initiation Process in Rural and Small Parishes," sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte in collaboration with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

The first workshop, "The Period of Evangelization and the Precatechumenate," was held at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Sept. 20.

The workshop covered the rite of acceptance/welcome, reflection on the rite, vision of the inquiry period, rural dynamics, elements of inquiry and discernment for the rite of acceptance.

The three remaining workshops, also scheduled to be held at Sacred Heart Church, will be "Period of the Catechumenate" in spring 2009, "Period of Purification and Enlightenment" in fall 2009 and "Period of Mystagogia" in spring 2010.

This diocesanwide program on RCIA will benefit RCIA team members and coordinators, sponsors and faith-journey partners, spouses of catechumens and candidates, catechists, priests, deacons and liturgy committee members.

Speakers of the Sept. 20 workshop were Franciscan Sister Gael Gensler, who has been involved with adult and children's initiation for 20 years; and Msgr. Michael Clay of the Diocese of Raleigh, whose doctorate from Catholic University of America had as its emphasis RCIA in rural and small town settings.

"We're about discipleship, about continuing the mission of Jesus Christ to spread the Gospel," Sister Gensler said. "The goal is about discipleship, not membership. The goal of RCIA is conversion to Christ."

"All of us are called to something bigger than ourselves, which is hard because our culture tells us we live in Burger King land: you can have it your way," Msgr. Clay said.

Discipleship is a call to mission, listening to the word of God, he said.

"No activity is more important than listening," Msgr. Clay said. "Is our attitude, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is

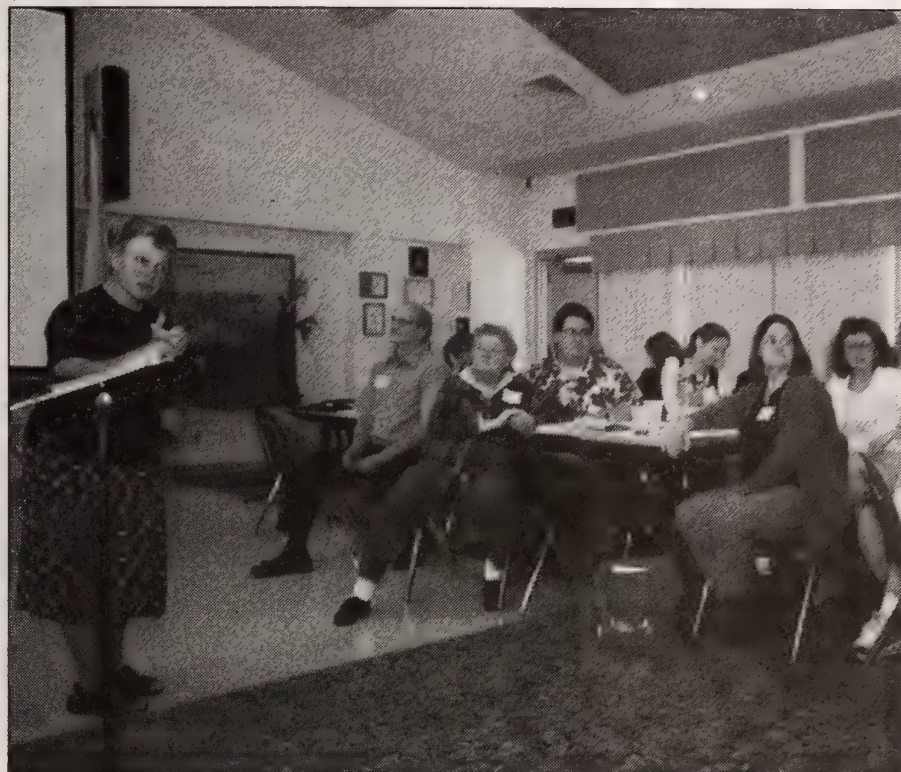


PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Franciscan Sister Gael Gensler makes a point during "The Initiation Process in Rural and Small Parishes" workshop at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard Sept. 20.

listening'; or is it, 'Speak, Lord, and I'll think it over and get back to you'?"

Discipleship is answering the call, but it's not easy.

"We fear the cost, that we'll have to change," Msgr. Clay said. "We can fear that I'm too young, too old, don't have enough education. All calls are to mission and response."

## A way to grow

If Susan decides, after several months of inquiry into the Catholic faith (the precatechumenate), that she is ready to progress further in her Catholic faith journey, she becomes a catechumen.

"Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults," the U.S. bishops' manual for the RCIA process, states: "The term 'catechumen' should be strictly reserved for the unbaptized who have been admitted into the order of catechumens; the term 'convert' should be reserved strictly for those converted from unbelief to Christian belief and never used of those baptized Christians who are received into the full communion of the Catholic Church."

Thus, if Susan completes RCIA and is baptized in the Catholic faith, she's a

convert to Catholicism.

Jack, who has already been incorporated into Christ through a valid Christian baptism, is a candidate for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

A valid baptism "consists in immersing the [person] in water, or pouring water on the head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity ('I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit')," according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Jack has already demonstrated his Catholic discipleship by his regular participation in the Catholic way of life.

RCIA, Sister Gensler pointed out, is a process rather than a program. It's a way for people to grow in their love of God.

"God is always present," she said, "but we're not always aware of it."

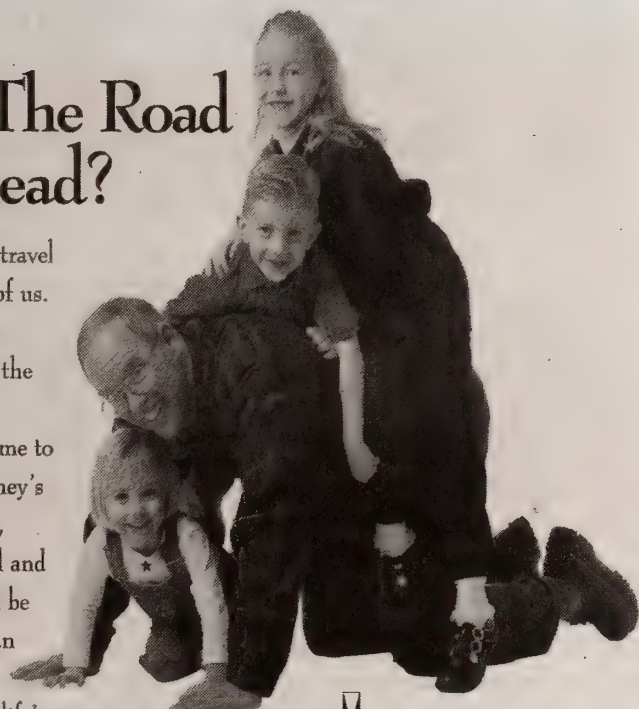
It's the Holy Spirit that prompts a person to want to find out more about God, she said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnnet.net.

## What's The Road Like Ahead?

The road we have to travel is different for each of us. The only certainty is that we all must end the journey some day.

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# N.C. bishops release candidate survey, statement on voting

VOTING, from page 1

state's Catholics a greater voice in the political process via an informative and nonpartisan Web site, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh have surveyed political candidates on issues relating to church social teaching.

Posted on the diocesan Web sites of Charlotte and Raleigh are the results of the survey sent to all candidates running for elective office to represent North Carolina as governor and in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and the state Senate and House.

Candidates were asked questions on a variety of topics, including health care, education, social security and abortion.

The candidates, as listed by the N.C. Board of Elections, were notified of the survey via mail in July and asked to complete the survey online at the Catholic Voice NC Web site, [www.catholicvoicenc.org](http://www.catholicvoicenc.org).

Candidates who did not respond to the initial inquiry were sent follow-up notices, with the option to complete the survey online or by hard copy. Candidates were informed the results would be made available online.

Results can be viewed at the Diocese of Charlotte's Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

The bishops encourage all Catholics in their diocese review the survey results prior to voting. In a Sept. 23 joint statement on voter preparation, the bishops also asked every adult Catholic to be "aware of church teaching to assist you in the formation of your consciences."

"We also note the moral duty we have to vote, both as an exercise of our



CNS ILLUSTRATION BY KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

constitutional right and in adherence to church teaching," said the bishops' statement.

"If you are not registered to vote in North Carolina, please take the steps to register before the deadline of Oct. 10, 2008," it said.

"We ask you to pray for divine wisdom and insight as well as for the candidates themselves throughout the time remaining in the campaign season," said the bishops.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).

## WANT MORE INFO?

To view the candidate survey results and read the bishops' statement, visit [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

For more information on Catholic Voice NC, visit [www.catholicvoicenc.org](http://www.catholicvoicenc.org).

# Priests for Life takes education campaign on abortion to Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Abortion supporters, including members of Congress and candidates for public office, are being challenged to explain their understanding of abortion by Priests for Life and other pro-life leaders.

In a campaign that was taken to both houses of Congress over three days in mid-September, the pro-life leaders asked the elected officials, "Is this what you mean by abortion?" after showing them graphic diagrams, quotes from medical texts and testimony about the most common abortion procedure by a physician who once performed the procedure.

The campaign is designed to come to a common understanding of the term abortion, said Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, during a media briefing Sept. 18 at the National Press Club.

Joining the effort was Alveda King, the niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and Dr. Anthony Levatino, an obstetrician-gynecologist who said he performed about 1,200 first- and second-trimester abortions during his first five years in private practice.

"To have a meaningful debate on

any topic, those having the debate must have a common starting point," said Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life.

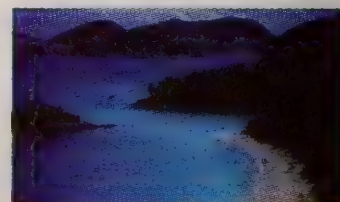
"In the abortion debate, however, the debating sides are rarely talking about the same thing," he said. "The purpose of our effort is to establish a common starting point, so that those discussing abortion have the same thing in mind when they start off the discussion."

Responding to recent comments about the Catholic Church and abortion by two prominent Catholic lawmakers, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Democratic vice-presidential candidate Sen. Joseph Biden, Priests for Life said that "those who support legal abortion are all too often unable or unwilling to describe what it is that they are supporting."

Many people are in denial that abortion actually is "an act of violence that kills a child," Father Pavone said. "Anyone using the word should be able to answer that question. Moreover, the project is completely nonpartisan and applies to people of any party or no party."

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# Candidates' stands on life cover more than abortion

Some finer points, differences difficult to ferret out

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series on the 2008 election.*

WASHINGTON — On few topics do presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain diverge as sharply as on abortion.

But on other life issues — embryonic stem-cell research, assisted suicide and the death penalty — the differences are not always easy to ferret out.

On abortion, McCain's campaign Web site said the Republican candidate "believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned" as "one step in the long path toward ending abortion."

Obama's Web site says the Democratic nominee "will make safeguarding women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority" and that he "opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn that decision."

In their 2007 document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S. Catholic bishops stress the importance of the life issues.

"The direct and intentional

destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many," the document says. "It must always be opposed."

Martin Shaffer, a political science professor and dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., said the impact of the life issues "may be murky at best given that neither candidate has been known nationally as a leader in either direction on those issues."

"Although John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin for his ticket is in part an attempt to make connections to voters on the life issues, neither presidential candidate is crystal clear and consistent on these issues," Shaffer told Catholic News Service Sept. 17.

### Stem-cell research

On stem cells, neither McCain nor Obama fully embraces the bishops' unequivocal opposition to any stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

McCain "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes" and "will strongly support funding for promising research programs, including amniotic fluid and adult stem-



CNS PHOTO BY JIM BOURG, REUTERS

U.S. SEN. JOHN MCCAIN OF ARIZONA, THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, AND SEN. BARACK OBAMA OF ILLINOIS, THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, TAKE PART IN THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI IN OXFORD, MISS., SEPT. 26.

cell research and other types of scientific study that do not involve the use of human embryos," according to his Web site.

Obama believes "we owe it to the American public to explore the potential of stem cells to treat the millions of people suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases," his campaign site says.

But both candidates voted for — and Obama co-sponsored — the Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, which President George W. Bush vetoed and the U.S. bishops had strongly opposed.

The legislation would have permitted the destruction of so-called "spare embryos," unused after fertility treatments, for use in embryonic stem-cell experiments.

Phyllis Zagano, senior research associate in the religion department at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., and a columnist on Catholic issues, said she believes the life issues "will play a very big role in the election, not only for Catholics but for all people of religious faith."

But because both candidates would permit embryonic stem-cell research and McCain has said he would allow abortions in cases of rape, incest and

danger to the mother's life, "for people for whom life issues are primary, I honestly don't know how it will fall," she told CNS Sept. 18.

Zagano said, however, that the combination of Palin's "appeal to the middle of America" and McCain's stronger position on abortion will likely mean that religiously motivated voters "will fall more on the McCain side."

### Other life issues

The topic of assisted suicide does not come up on either candidate's campaign Web site, and neither has taken a public stand on Washington state's Initiative 1000, which would legalize physician-assisted suicide.

In "Faithful Citizenship," the bishops say, "The purposeful taking of human life by assisted suicide and euthanasia is not an act of mercy, but an unjustifiable assault on human life."

The bishops also criticize "our nation's continued reliance on the death penalty" and said they support "efforts to end" its use and moves to limit it "through broader use of DNA evidence, access to effective counsel and efforts to address unfairness and injustice related to application of the death penalty."

Asked by U.S. Catholic magazine about their positions on capital punishment, neither candidate embraced that view.

"I support the death penalty for heinous crimes in which the circumstances warrant capital punishment," said McCain.

Obama's stand was a bit more nuanced. "Throughout my career I have worked strenuously to ensure that the death penalty is only administered fairly and justly," he told U.S. Catholic. "But I do believe that there are some crimes that are so heinous that they deserve the death penalty."

Frank McNeirney, co-founder and national coordinator of Catholics Against Capital Punishment, says he does not expect the death penalty to be much of an issue for Catholic voters in the 2008 elections.

Even in 2004, when the Democratic candidate for president, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposed the death penalty, "it was not a big factor in any of the debates," he said.



More than 100,000 expectant couples each year receive the devastating news of a poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD). It may be the detection of a fetal heart defect, kidneys that are too small for gestation, or evidence of spina bifida or Down Syndrome, but whatever the specifics, shocked and broken-hearted parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated. With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying to term, 80% of these pregnancies end in abortion.

## God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis

Friday, October 24th – 9 AM - 3 PM

Elizabeth Ministry, in conjunction with the Diocesan Respect Life Office, is hosting a conference to increase awareness regarding this "new kind of crisis pregnancy" and to improve outreach to encourage parents to carry to term.

**Morning program:** information from speakers and a parent panel  
**Afternoon program:** three concurrent roundtable sessions focusing on the development of perinatal hospice and medical resource support services, and improving the Catholic response to the diagnosis of Down Syndrome

A light lunch will be served.

**Location:** 1st Floor Conference Room, Diocesan Pastoral Center,  
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte.

**Reservations are required. 704-370-3228.**

Parking available across Church Street from the Pastoral Center.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Authors seek to replace 'either-or' politics with Catholic vision

REVIEWED BY DAVID GIBSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A deeply ingrained "politics of division" erects walls in today's America that keep people from conversing civilly about public policy concerns and leave them to approach issues on an "either-or basis," according to Chris Korzen and Alexia Kelley, joint authors of "A Nation for All." They view the common good as the big loser in this divisive atmosphere.

Korzen and Kelley think that neither major U.S. political party in recent years has lived up "to the call to the common good." Their goal? To examine policies and ideas holding sway in this divided time and "offer a vision of the common good that can benefit" everyone.

Korzen is co-founder and executive director of Catholics United, while Kelley is principal founder and executive director of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good.

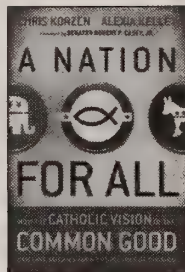
Their organizations, born in 2005, hope "the national dialogue on faith and politics" can be turned around.

The politics of division "takes place when our leaders encourage us to put aside our commonalities and focus on our differences"; it is witnessed, for example, when leaders resort "to scare tactics and name-calling" to advance their agendas, the book explains.

Sen. Robert P. Casey, D-Pa., a pro-life Democrat, speaks in the foreword about an "ideological rigidity fused with partisan hostility (that) makes collaboration and consensus impossible."

It seems to me that a daunting challenge faces the authors of a book like this one: how to get beyond preaching only to the choir. After all, if today's politics of division is as they describe it, who on the divide's other side will read their book?

The authors seem aware of this challenge. They point out that "shared experiences and time together" foster trust and civility between political rivals, and that increased understanding of the common good helps people get past the



political divide.

Casey suggests that "dialogue and consensus-building" are needed.

Still, I cannot help wondering how such a dialogue will happen in the context the authors describe. Perhaps this is a topic for yet another book — by these or other authors.

One would expect this book to examine the moral responsibilities of Catholic voters, the withholding of holy Communion from some Catholic politicians, abortion and the scope of Catholic social teaching, and to survey the history of contemporary debates on the church and politics — and it does.

The authors view abortion as an affront "to human life and dignity," while holding that discourse on human life too often presents a "false choice" between fighting to end abortion or fighting to promote social justice. Research shows consistently that a majority of women seeking abortions "do so for economic reasons," they write.

If "A Nation for All" opposes a politics of division, it places great hope in a politics of the common good. It recommends focusing "more on the kind of society we should have and less on the kind we shouldn't."

Furthermore, the book says, the church's "long history of grounding the common good in the dignity of the human person and the specific demands of justice makes Catholics especially well suited to challenge our nation's leaders to embrace a more robust common-good agenda."

*Gibson was the founding editor of Origins, Catholic News Service's documentary service.*

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 12, 2008

Oct. 12, Twenty-eighth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Psalm 23:1-6
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

## God's gifts are to be used, shared

BY JEAN DENTON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the "First Principle and Foundation" of his spiritual exercises, St. Ignatius Loyola explained that God's gifts are presented to us so that we can come to know him more easily and better return his love.

He added, "We appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us develop as loving persons."

This is the twofold message in today's Gospel parable about the banquet God places before us: We must recognize the richness of his gifts and also reverence them.

The first part of the story shows people simply ignoring the gifts; the second part shows people partaking in the banquet but with a total lack of appreciation for what they are offered and no clue as to what to do with it.

As Ignatius suggests, how we respond to the particular gifts God offers each of us is the foundation of our lived faith.

If she were in the parable, my friend Jackie probably would not have been on the original invitation list. She

wasn't born into privilege and wasn't academically gifted.

Struggling through school, she watched others go to college while she worked to pay bills and tuition for courses in various professional programs. She was repeatedly disappointed by being turned down for admission or missing the final cut.

Test-taking was a particular obstacle.

Last month her decade-long persistence paid off as she completed a medical technician program and passed the certification test.

But throughout her long personal struggle, she took every opportunity to give what she had — in ministry to youth caring for family members, offering support to friends and celebrating the lives and accomplishments of other people.

I guess you could say she was sort of sneaking food.

So as Jackie continued to hang near that banquet hall, when she finally got invited in she was dressed for the occasion.

She donned her sacrificial love for her family; she sported deep friendship and spiritual growth she'd nurtured in her teens; she wore her favorite perseverance and good grace that somehow kept her from resenting others' gifts; she was dressed in her continuous relationship with her church community — it was practically painted on; and she brought her abiding love for her host.

### Questions:

What gifts has God put on the banquet table he's spread in your life? How have you revered them — or failed to?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 5-11

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43; Monday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi), Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 11:5-13; Friday, Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28.

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 12-18

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14; Monday, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; Tuesday (St. Callistus I), Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; Wednesday (St. Teresa of Avila), Galatians 5:18-25, Luke 11:42-46; Thursday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque), Ephesians 1:1-10, Luke 11:47-54; Friday (St. Ignatius of Antioch), Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday (St. Luke), 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9.

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# Catholic film critics laud Paul Newman's career, generosity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic film critics lauded the work of actor Paul Newman, who died Sept. 26 at age 83 of cancer. Other praise came from the Vatican's newspaper.

"In his films he was the tough guy and the braggart, the rebel and the conquistador," said a notice in the Sept. 29 issue of L'Osservatore Romano. "In reality Newman was a generous heart, an actor of a dignity and style rare in Hollywood quarters."

The obituary mentioned his role in the 1954 biblical epic "The Silver Chalice," although Newman at one point took out a full-page ad in a Hollywood newspaper deriding the movie as one of the worst ever made.

"He and (Marlon) Brando are gone now, and they pretty much defined screen acting in the '50s," said Jim Arnold, who wrote movie reviews for 39 years for St. Anthony Messenger magazine before retiring in 2003. "That kind of defined the end of a generation in Hollywood."

"Probably every Catholic film professor or adult is fond of certain films of his," said Arnold.

Arnold talked about his personal favorite: "'Cool Hand Luke,' of course, being the classic one — the Christian parable in which the Luke character played by Newman is a Christ figure coming to the nasty world of the prison

and sacrificing himself for others — not in a very conscious, churchy way but in a subtle, very intelligent way.

"It was a very, very good film. It was shown a lot in the 1960s and '70s in a lot of church halls as well as at film festivals," he said.

Gerri Pare, a former director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, couldn't stop at just one Newman favorite. She chose the 1990 movie "Mr. and Mrs. Bridge," starring Newman and his real-life second wife, Joanne Woodward. In her review, she said the "standout performances" of the two previous Oscar winners merited them additional Academy Award statuettes.

Pare also picked Newman's last major on-screen film role, 2002's "Road to Perdition."

Pare noted how Newman made his gangster character in that film "really realize there would be consequences to all his criminal activities: 'You know what we have done, and there's not going to be a heaven for us afterwards.'"

"We don't see that too often. ... It made a real moral point," said Pare, who rated it one of the best movies of 2002. "He was just outstanding in 'The Verdict' and you couldn't help but be entertained by 'The Sting' and 'Butch Cassidy (and the Sundance Kid).'"

"A gentleman's sense of character



CNS PHOTO COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX VIA REUTERS

ACTOR PAUL NEWMAN IS SHOWN IN A SCENE FROM THE 1969 FILM "BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID" IN THIS UNDATED PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPH. NEWMAN DIED SEPT. 26 FROM CANCER AT HIS HOME IN WESTPORT, CONN. HE WAS 83.

always came through" in Newman's performances, said Joseph Cunneen, who has reviewed movies for the National Catholic Reporter weekly newspaper. "There was a human generosity behind it all that makes him different from the usual Hollywood star."

"I am not ready to rate him as an actor against other great actors. That's not a problem I'm ready to solve," Cunneen said, but recalled that "he was in very few bombs."

"His relationship with his wife was very gratifying. They acted well to each other and encouraged each other to go after roles in films that were particularly worthwhile," he said.

Newman's last film credit was as narrator of the 2007 documentary "The Price of Sugar," which chronicled the efforts of a British-born Catholic priest to help the Haitians who had migrated to the Dominican Republic make money by planting and harvesting sugar.

Although Newman's voice-over is gravelly, "it fits our story," said director Bill Haney last year during the film's release. "It's a bit of the voice of God. He's got a bit of Methuselah in his voice."

Newman had announced earlier in 2007 he was retiring from acting because of his advancing age and his decreased ability to remember his lines.

Arnold mentioned the Newman's Own line of specialty foods that bear the actor's name and likeness.

"When he became wealthy and could afford to do that kind of thing, he had the advantage of finding a more healthy way to have a product with his name on it," he said.

Sales of Newman's Own products have generated millions of dollars for charities.

"As a matter of fact, two nights ago," Pare told CNS, "I was watching 'Larry King Live,' a memorial tribute to him (Newman), and I ate Newman's Own popcorn during it. I thought that was an appropriate tribute."

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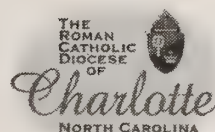
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## "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform"

presented by

**Mr. Antonio Cube**

**National Director**

**Justice for Immigrants (JFI)  
Campaign, US Conference of  
Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**

**Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek, Greensboro

**Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Boone

**Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, 298 Farmers Market Road, Biscoe

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**About this presentation...**What principles form the basis of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform? How can the faith community help bring about a society that welcomes newcomers, especially people fleeing poverty and/or seeking reunion with family? As we seek immigration reform, can we concurrently reach the goals of fulfilling our faith's mandate to "welcome the stranger," maintaining our nation's security, and respecting the moral values and civil laws which guide our actions? These questions will be addressed during this presentation. For information on the "JFI Campaign" visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

Mr. Cube is the National Director of the USCCB's "Justice for Immigrants" Campaign. He has a broad range of experience in public affairs consultancy, community outreach, communications and legislative assistance. Prior to his current position, Mr. Cube served as the legislative director of the Washington State Catholic Conference and as a public relations consultant for the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Sponsored by: The Diocesan Liaison to the JFI Campaign, Hispanic Ministry, CSS and Host Parishes



## ARCHIVAL ANECDOTA

For the month of October, here are some historical facts about Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, the third bishop of Charlotte.



ARCHIVAL PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin is pictured with Missionaries of Charity in their convent in Charlotte, which was opened in June 1995 during a visit to the Diocese of Charlotte by Blessed Mother Teresa.

### Biographical information:

- Aug. 30, 1927: Born in Portsmouth, Va.
- May 25, 1957: Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. by Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle.
- Nov. 10, 1987: Appointed titular bishop of Rosemarkie and auxiliary bishop of Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 20, 1988: Ordained auxiliary bishop of Washington, D.C. by Cardinal James Hickey; appointed regional bishop of southern Maryland counties.
- Feb. 22, 1994: Appointed third bishop of Charlotte by Pope John Paul II.
- April 13, 1994: Installed as bishop of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte.
- Sept. 10, 2002: Retired as bishop of Charlotte.

### During his time as bishop of Charlotte:

- The number of Catholics increased from 95,000 to more than 135,000;
- Blessed Mother Teresa, a friend, spoke at an ecumenical prayer service at the Charlotte Coliseum June 13, 1995. A convent for the Missionaries of Charity was opened in Charlotte during her visit.
- In November 1997, the chancery and diocesan offices moved from Morehead Street to Church Street in Charlotte.
- Bishop Curlin and Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman issued a joint pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," to N.C. Catholics in 1997. The letter presented the difficulties of the poor in N.C. through the use of personal accounts and discussed church teaching regarding responsibility to assist those who are less fortunate. The bishops asked for action in not only addressing the effects of poverty but also in confronting the root causes of it.
- The Church of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey was elevated to a minor basilica July 27, 1998. The dedication occurred March 22, 1999.

### Bishop Curlin's coat of arms

(designed by Anthony W.C. Phelps)

- Episcopal motto: Sentire cum Christo (To think with Christ), adapted from Philippians 2:5.
- Top left quarter: Celtic cross edged in gold honoring St. Patrick, patron saint of the Diocese of Charlotte's cathedral. Bottom left quarter: Gold crown symbolizing Queen Charlotte for whom the see city was named.
- Right half: Personal arms of Bishop Curlin. Cross quartered in red and blue over a white shield. Red and white are colors for Christ, blue symbolizes Blessed Virgin Mary. Blue with red and white professes the unique union of Mary with Christ in the mystery of redemption. The gold fleur-de-lis symbolizes Our Lady and is a remembrance that all of the parishes Bishop Curlin served as priest held titles relating to the Blessed Mother.
- The green pontifical hat with six tassels on each side indicates rank of bishop.

### Interesting facts about Bishop Curlin:

- He told people they could stop by the bishop's residence any time they saw the light on and needed to talk.
- As a priest in Washington, D.C., he stayed at a homeless shelter overnight to experience what the poor endure.
- He acted as "cook" and scrubbed floors at the Missionaries of Charity convent in Washington, D.C.
- During one 5-month period in his first year as bishop of Charlotte, he put 21,000 miles on his car attempting to visit as much of the diocese as possible. He enjoyed praying the rosary on the long trips.
- Bishop Curlin has a special affinity for the sick and dying, and uses the words of St. Paul of the Cross as a maxim: "In the twilight of life, God will judge us by the love we offered the poor and the suffering on earth."

## St. Gabriel School celebrates 50 years of fostering faith

SCHOOL, from page 1

The celebration also included a film highlighting the school's 50 years and an indoor picnic. Among the attendees and special guests were past administrators and teachers.

In 1958, Father Paul Byron, the first pastor of St. Gabriel Church, opened a school with one kindergarten; a first grade was added the following year.

In 1960, St. Gabriel School was dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh. The school opened with 150 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Administrative and teaching duties were assumed by the Sisters of Mercy, and Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast was the school's first principal.

"The thing that stands out most in my mind was the happiness and the closeness that we felt," said Sister Kienast.

In the early days, classes were held in quail huts on the church property; the original gym could seat no more than 50 people; and in the first school building there was no way to get from the first floor to the second floor without going outside in the rain, recalled Father Sheridan, who gave the homily.

"The campus has changed, but the mission has not," said Father Sheridan.

And that mission, he said, is "to provide an environment where things can take place that really matter — to provide an environment where there is true Christian guidance for our children and our parents."

The family atmosphere was evident

at the picnic, which was attended by approximately 800 people, according to Lynn Erin Tyler, PTO president.

Among them was Pete McArdle, who graduated from St. Gabriel School in 1983. He said he credits the school for providing him with "a good moral compass and a solid Catholic background."

"I have four kids, all of whom go to school here," he said. "The school's a lot bigger now, but it's the same spirit and the same energy."

Fellow alumni Todd Siczek also has two children attending the school.

"It's pretty special," said Siczek, of seeing his children attend his alma mater, "especially given that the children of classmates of mine are friends with my kids."

St. Gabriel School has come a long way over the past 50 years.

In 1992, a new parish center was built, which housed the school and also served as the location for faith formation and adult education activities.

The new 79,000-square-foot building included 19 classrooms, a 500-seat cafeteria and a 600-seat gymnasium, allowing for an increase in enrollment from 385 to 535 students.

Today, enrollment is up to 595 students, the school has a state-of-the-art computer lab and teachers use interactive smart boards, according to Principal Sharon Broxterman.

But like Father Sheridan said, the mission of the school has remained the same.

"Most importantly, we are a Catholic school," said Broxterman. "Our purpose is to pass on that faith to the next generation."



COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Mary Martin stands in her third-grade classroom at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte circa 1964-65. The school celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Mass and picnic Sept. 27.

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## IN OUR SCHOOLS

## Pie for a cause



COURTESY PHOTO

Diane Daniel, assistant kindergarten teacher, and Elissa Brannan, assistant second-grade teacher, laugh during the "Pie in the Face" attraction at the fun fair at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Sept. 13. More than 500 people attended the fun fair, a fundraising event that featured rides, carnival games, food, clowns and karaoke. The "Pie in the Face" attraction, which featured teachers, was quite popular among the students.

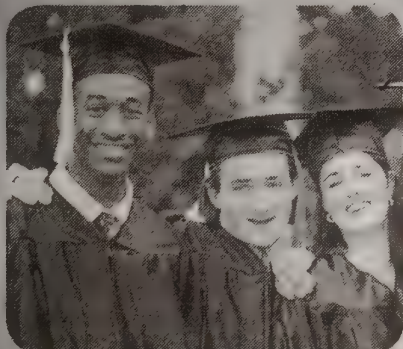
## Wash for Life



COURTESY PHOTO

Hannah Grendahl, an eighth-grader at St. Mark School in Huntersville, holds a sign during "Wash for Life" Sept. 23. Twenty-one eighth-graders participated in the national pro-life event, during which youth groups from around the country hold car washes to raise funds for local pregnancy care centers. Organized by middle school youth minister Katie Herzing, the event raised \$340 for Room at the Inn, a Catholic maternity home in Charlotte.

Due to the drought in North Carolina, the students washed only the insides of cars. Working in groups, the students cleaned windows, vacuumed carpets and seats, collected debris and dusted the interiors. "The day was a huge success, and we plan on participating in the Wash for Life next year and washing 100 cars," said Herzing.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## A look into the heart of prejudice

*The better we know ourselves, the wiser and less indiscrete we are*

"This country isn't ready for an African American president!"

"We will never have a woman vice president as long as I am alive!"

One way to learn about innate prejudices in people is to discuss the upcoming election. Without a doubt, everyone has a right to an opinion.

In fact, people's ability to voice their opinion is what has made our country great.

But where do we draw the line between sound opinion and prejudice? What does being wrongfully prejudiced say about a person?

The word "prejudice" means to pre-judge. Webster's defines it as "injury due to some judgment or action of another, as in disregard of a person's rights."

By its nature, prejudice spawns injury. It can result in character assassination and destroy reputations, actions that often are much more painful than physical injury.

In the U.S. Supreme Court, a frieze depicting the works of good and evil stands above the justices; one of the works of evil is slander, one of the handmaids of prejudice.

Whenever we talk about prejudging, we also are speaking of imprudence. Prudence advises us to be clear-sighted in seeking the truth, not flinching when something is not to our liking.

So knowing the real truth is essential for prudent judgment. It is also the antithesis of indiscretion and foolishness.

How do people become prejudiced?

One answer can be found in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's book, "The

### The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE  
HEMRICK  
CNS COLUMNIST



Brothers Karamazov."

In one of the episodes, Fyodor and his three sons visit a wise old monk named Zosima. During the visit, Fyodor plays the part of a buffoon. When he finally settles down and admits his indiscretion, he beseeches Zosima to share wisdom on his behavior.

Zosima replies, "You are lying!" He tells Fyodor he is not truthful to himself, and hence not to everyone around him.

Prejudice, more often than not, is the result of a person not being truthful with himself or herself. Prejudiced persons love their own self-deceit, wallow in it.

They have no desire to leave their comfortable, narrow world to learn the real truth and the discomfort it can create.

The opposite of prejudice is wisdom that encourages us to ask what ultimately is behind our heavy heartedness and the feelings that are locking us into our one-sided world.

The better we know our true hearts, the wiser and less indiscrete we are.

That should govern the way we pick our next president and vice president!

## No common ground for abortion

I was dismayed by Douglas Kmiec's Sept. 19 column ("Abortion and common ground"). Dr. Alveda King (niece of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.) and others have made a compelling moral analogy between abortion and slavery.

Both are grave evils that deny personhood and claim ownership of another life. If we apply this slavery analogy to Kmiec's argument, we would seek to improve economic conditions to make slavery unnecessary but ignore the unjust law that legalizes such grave evil.

Kmiec asks us to find "common ground." He states "there is, in fact, more than one way to be pro-life."

But there is only one way to

be pro-life — with all your heart, soul and mind.

— Peter Miller  
Hickory

### Moral clarity appreciated

We want to express our gratitude for Father Matthew Buettner's column in the Sept. 26 issue ("Moral clarity in an election year"). The definitions of the moral issues of our current political scene with the respective positions of the Catholic Church were crystal clear, consistently logical and documented with references to the catechism.

The conclusions are irrefutable and the responsibility of each Catholic voter is obvious. Thank you for making this outstanding material available to members of the Diocese of Charlotte.

— Joseph and Anita Di Pietro  
Charlotte

## Fighting the force

*High abortion rate associated with Down syndrome diagnosis*

*Editor's note: This is part of a series on prenatal diagnosis.*

This morning, I went to Mass with my family. Admittedly, I was a bit distracted by my 6-month old son, George, who was trying to get my husband's attention with his newest tricks — grabbing noses, blowing bubbles, trying to sing (or at least that's what we call it).

When George does all those regular baby things, we rejoice more than we did with his older siblings because George has Down syndrome, a chromosomal disorder.

After the doom and gloom prognosis we were given for him, it's now wonderful as we realize that he's overwhelmingly more like his siblings than different from them.

As I sat in church today, I wondered where all the other babies with Down syndrome were. Last week we were at a violin concert, and there was a happy, busy 4-year-old with Down syndrome sitting behind us.

In May, I brought George to an education conference where I saw three other babies with Down's in the room.

So where are the babies with Down syndrome at my church? There's a wonderful young man, Nathan, who has Down syndrome. He was in my Sunday school class several years ago, but he's on his way to middle school now.

In my 11 years of working with every first Communicant at our parish, Nathan has been the only kid with Down syndrome to celebrate that sacrament. Nobody I've asked has been able to think of a baby with Down syndrome baptized at our church in the past few years, other than our George.

I can't think of any reason Catholic moms wouldn't conceive just as many babies with an extra chromosome as the rest of the world's women — so where are the babies?

Ninety percent of all babies prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted.

From personal experience, I can

### Life Issues Forum

ELIZABETH S.  
DEHORITY, M.D.  
GUEST COLUMNIST

tell you that the obstetrical care system is a strong force, and truly a challenge for even the most passionately pro-life families. While early prenatal care and screening is valuable and positive for many reasons, as soon as there is even a remote possibility of a fetal problem all the relationships in that system change.

It's called poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD). When obstetricians provide a PPD, the system can go from one geared toward investing in the health of mother and baby to a fast-paced, frightening, very negative organization.

When our family learned that George probably had Down syndrome, we made it absolutely clear to everyone that we would keep our son. I was, however, amazed at how much time and effort it took to go against the flow. Why would these professionals make life more difficult for a family struggling with a PPD? Why wouldn't they be supportive of a family carrying to term?

Things became more difficult when we had additional pregnancy complications that required a specialist. Finding a maternal fetal medicine doctor willing to help us bring George into the world in as healthy a state as possible required much time and grief.

We managed to resist the force, and we kept George. He was premature, and he has Down's, and he brings joy to our family.

So I think of Newton's Third Law: "Every force has an equal and opposing force." Perhaps that explains why there aren't any other babies with Down syndrome in my church, because the force of the fast-paced, frightening, non-pro-life obstetrical industry isn't being met with much of anything to oppose it.

How can we create a force, equal in speed, strength and power to that of the medical system, that could support families dealing with bad news about their babies?

Our force must be positive, peaceful, honest and gentle. Families in this situation are so vulnerable, so options must be visible and immediately available. Often medical-related issues happen so fast that if parents don't know about supportive options ahead of time, it might be too late.

And finally, our efforts to support these families must be fully integrated into a culture of respect for life — no matter how brief, no matter how handicapped — in every aspect of our faith community.

Dr. DeHORITY is a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

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# Effective parish leadership

*Servant leadership qualities encourage 'followership'*

There's a lot of talk about leadership these days, most notably, of course, in the campaign for the presidency.

But it was encouraging to see an emphasis on leadership in early September at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in suburban Philadelphia where hundreds of people from surrounding parishes gathered to discuss leadership, involvement, community and spirituality in parish life. I was invited to offer some keynote thoughts.

There is a distinction, I pointed out, between leadership and management, and that distinction was not news to this predominantly lay assembly. They agreed that management deals with complexity and leadership deals with change.

Although it is sometimes said that you lead people and manage things, I reminded them that the late Peter Drucker, an expert on business management, held that, "Management deals with people, their values, their growth and development — and this makes it [the study of management] a humanity."

Aware, however, that leadership deals with change, the parish leaders in this assembly realized that any attempt to bring about change will draw resistance; they know that most humans prefer to live in the immediate past.

So those who want to lead,

I suggested, have to be persuasive communicators. It is more important, of course, for a leader to have integrity and creativity, but if you don't write and speak well you are probably not going to lead effectively.

Although the emphasis at the Corpus Christi gathering was on parish leadership, it was natural to think of political and business leaders, even military leaders, as we considered various styles of leadership and their applicability to the leadership challenge in a parish.

There's something to be said for "followership" too, but it was up to the subgroups in this gathering to decide how best to generate more involvement and wider participation on the part of parishioners in parish activities.

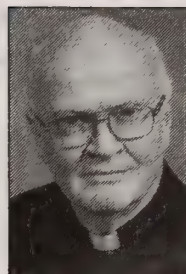
I mentioned that I had read an interesting book recently: "Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History" by Ted Sorensen, special counsel to President John F. Kennedy and best known, perhaps, as Kennedy's chief speech writer.

Speaking of Kennedy as leader, Sorensen says: "JFK was a wonderful boss. We never argued, quarreled, shouted or swore at each other. He never bawled me out. He never asked me to lie to anyone. He never misled or lied to me. ...

"When mistakes occurred, whether

## Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
WILLIAM J.  
BYRON  
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in his campaign or in his presidency, he never blamed me or anyone else on his staff, or disavowed me or others when under political or journalistic pressure. To the contrary, he always protected and defended us.

"When a speech of his on which I had worked went well, or a political task I had undertaken for him succeeded, he often telephoned me the next day with profuse thanks."

In this political season, the entire nation is assessing leadership qualities. Most of us like a friendly leader.

We want evidence that the would-be leader's ears are not purely ornamental; we want to be heard by the one we're being asked to follow. We want honesty, integrity and veracity as well as energy in our leaders.

Years ago in a panel discussion at the University of Notre Dame the following three essentials of Christian leadership were mentioned: availability, accountability and vulnerability.

Where parish leadership displays those three, can engaged followership be far behind?

## Freedom means imitating Christ, especially serving poor, pope says

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian freedom is not being able to do anything one wants, but being free to imitate Christ, especially in serving the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Let us allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, trying to live in the freedom that finds direction in faith in Christ and becomes concrete in service to our brothers and sisters," the pope said Oct. 1 at his weekly general audience.

"Being increasingly like Christ is essential. That is how one becomes truly free," the pope told those gathered for his audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope's audience talk focused on how St. Paul and the other apostles resolved differences they had, particularly regarding whether new Christians from pagan families were required to observe Jewish law.

*Here is text of the pope's remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider two events that illustrate Paul's relationship to the Twelve, which combined respect for their authority with frankness in the service of the Gospel.

At the Council of Jerusalem, Paul defended before the Twelve his conviction that the grace of Christ had freed the Gentiles from the obligations of the Mosaic Law. Significantly, the church's decision in this matter of faith was accompanied by a gesture of concrete concern for the needs of the poor (cf. Gal 2:10).

By endorsing Paul's collections among the Gentiles, the council thus set its teaching on Christian freedom within the context of the church's communion in charity.

Later, in Antioch, when Peter, to avoid scandalizing Jewish Christians, abstained from eating with the Gentiles, Paul rebuked him for compromising the freedom brought by Christ (cf. Gal 2:11-14).

Yet, writing to the Romans years later, Paul himself insisted that our freedom in Christ must not become a source of scandal for others (cf. Rom 14:21).

Paul's example shows us that, led by the Spirit and within the communion of the church, Christians are called to live in a freedom which finds its highest expression in service to others.

## Why isn't school choice a national issue?

*Anti-religious bias still blocks educational choices*

My father was a protégé of the first Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago. He took great pride in being one of the mayor's "foot soldiers" in the regular Democratic Party in the "city of big shoulders," as Carl Sandburg put it so well in poetic lyric. My dad liked that image, since it conjured up the idea of taking up in a very Catholic way other people's worries and helping them out.

In my dad's day, that's what politics was about — helping somebody get a break who truly needed one. And not surprising, in a city like Chicago, New York, Detroit or Cincinnati, it was frequently new immigrant families that needed help finding a job, a decent place to live, getting the kids into schools.

Immigrants of Irish, Polish, Italian and German descent often sought to enroll their children in Catholic schools. But Catholic schools were crowded then. In many Catholic schools today, the problem is less space than the affordability of parochial education.

It was inequitable to Dad that taxpayers could not direct a portion of their own tax monies for education to the schools of their choice. Indeed, it was not uncommon for Dad to hear from new immigrants that this had long been done in "the old country" — Europe.

But in the United States it was

different. In the late-19th and early 20th century, an anti-immigrant wave swept the country, aided and abetted by Ohio Republican James Blaine, who thought he could get himself elected president by getting American citizens (mostly immigrants themselves only a generation or two earlier) to fear the new arrivals.

Blaine focused this dislike on Catholics, accusing them of being in league with a foreign pope and often running their own schools.

While Blaine's attempted amendment of the federal constitution failed, he was successful in getting some pretty mean wording added to 37 state constitutions: "(No) revenue ... shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution."

Dad's retired now in Florida, but at 86 he still follows politics closely. Recently an effort by the Florida Tax and Budget Commission caught Dad's attention.

The commission proposed to ask the people of Florida on the November ballot whether or not to get rid of Blaine's anti-Catholic language and substitute something more evenhanded: "Individuals or entities may not be barred from participating in public programs because of religion."

## Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W.  
KMEIC  
CNS COLUMNIST



The elegant simplicity and fairness of those few words would have permitted parents to get a voucher and send their children to the school of their choice: public, independent or religious.

However, the proposed measure awakened the state's public school teachers' union, which opposed it. Then, because of a bureaucratic technicality, the Florida Supreme Court justices decided to keep the proposal off the ballot.

Apparently the tax commission is the wrong entity to propose state constitutional amendments about state taxes. As the kids say, "whatever."

For now at least, the ghost of Jimmy Blaine stands again in the way of religious freedom.

Catholic Floridians and Catholics in every state where educational choice is blocked by the anti-religious bias of an earlier era ought to keep trying.

Years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared away any lingering federal objection to school choice. Any state that doesn't follow suit will be employing an ethic that says "I've got mine, get your own."

That's not the Catholic way, and come to think of it, it shouldn't be the American way either.





CNS PHOTO BY ERIK NORIEGA, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

CARDINAL DANIEL N. DINARDO OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON GREETS MASSGOERS SEPT. 28 AFTER CELEBRATING THE FIRST MASS ON GALVESTON ISLAND AFTER HURRICANE IKE HIT SEPT. 13. THE MASS WAS AT ST. PATRICK CHURCH, WHICH WAS IN RELATIVELY GOOD SHAPE ALTHOUGH THE RECTORY AND OLD SCHOOL BUILDING WERE BOTH COMPLETELY INUNDATED BY THE STORM SURGE. LAST CENTURY THE CHURCH WITHSTOOD THE GREAT STORM OF 1900.

# Returning to life after Ike

*Hope, faith in abundance at first Mass on Galveston Island since hurricane*

BY ERIK NOREIGA  
AND JONAH DYCUS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GALVESTON, Texas — An hour prior to Mass, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was walking around the grounds of St. Patrick Church, taking time to speak with those who showed up early for the first Mass on Galveston Island since it was battered by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13.

They all shared similar stories. Some had lost everything. Some had only lost their utilities and were still waiting.

Some were born on the island. Some weren't.

Regardless, they all shared in the hope that the historic island would recover as it has after previous storms, and they all shared the same faith — that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist would lift their spirits during these challenging times.

And like his predecessors — from Bishop Jean Marie Odin to retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza — Cardinal DiNardo was present to his flock when they needed him most, sharing a smile, a word of hope or just a simple pat on the back.

"I want the people of Galveston to know that faith is going to be pretty important for them as they begin all of their cleanup and rebuilding and we are here with them," Cardinal DiNardo said.

This Mass, celebrated Sept. 28, was followed by another Mass at Sacred Heart Church just down the street a few hours later. While the sanctuary of each church was useable, both parishes sustained heavy damage.

"St. Patrick is in relatively good shape. The big problem here is the air condition(ing) is gone," Cardinal DiNardo said.

"When you go inside, the church looks very fine. It was one of the reasons I decided to come here to St. Patrick," he said.

While St. Patrick and Sacred Heart churches were able to celebrate Mass, the rest of the churches on the island did not fare as well.

Cleaning crews meticulously scrubbed every inch of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, the mother church of the state of Texas, which was inundated with more than 5 feet of water.

Archdiocesan officials were finally able to reach St. Therese Church on Point Bolivar. The church, like most buildings on that part of the island, suffered catastrophic damage.

Regardless, Cardinal DiNardo preached a message of hope as crews from a disaster response company worked feverishly throughout the week to get St. Patrick Church ready for the Mass.

"They are working hard and we are working with them and we hope to have the buildings back up and running

— including the schools here — as fast as possible," Cardinal DiNardo said.

The Mass at St. Patrick was concelebrated by a number of priests who currently serve the Catholic faithful on the island.

Franciscan Father John Bok, the pastor, was greeted by members of his flock happy to see a familiar face.

"I am grateful to be back. My heart was lifted up just from the experience, it was wonderful. I think we all needed it, to get back on the island a little bit of normalcy," Father Bok said.

"It helped us all to get back a little sense of what we are used to; the norm," he said.

While the church fared well during the storm — it had previously been lifted 5 feet after the great storm of 1900 — Father Bok lost his living quarters during Ike as a result of the storm surge. He is currently residing elsewhere.

Father Bok's living situation has given him insight on how many of his parishioners are feeling without a place to call home.

"One of the sad things is that it has been difficult to keep track of people because we dispersed all over the place. I don't know where many of our parishioners were; they probably didn't know where I was until today," Father Bok said.

"That is another thing that is wonderful about being able to make these connections again. To see some of the people whom we may have not known how they are, where they have been," he said.

After the Mass, Cardinal DiNardo spent a half-hour shaking hands and offering words of hope to the standing-room-only crowd who attended the Mass.

And as Galvestonians gathered after Mass, neighbors shared hugs and stories. The favorite question was, "Do you have lights?" This was the first time many had seen each other since Ike.

"Faith" and "hope" were two words being repeated, like the new mantra of those who are going to rebuild their lives on Galveston Island.

"I'm almost 73 years old, I have lived a long time. I've learned, even in the midst of our valleys, what Psalm 23 said, 'The Lord is our shepherd,' and in the darkest valleys, he is there with us," Father Bok said.

"And people who have faith, like these people here today, realize that God is with us, and God is going to get us through it," he said.

"It is a very difficult time of adversity for all of the people of Galveston. I am zeroing in on the Catholic community but my heart goes out to all the people in Galveston," Cardinal DiNardo said.

If everyone is "in solidarity with one another and we move step by step," he added, "we can build up again this great city" and its faith communities.

## Experience both FATIMA and LOURDES and more fascinating cities in PORTUGAL, FRANCE and SPAIN April 19-28, 2009



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Masses at many special spiritual sites, plus so much to see — and even time for personal exploration, shopping or relaxation, too — all for only \$2,830 per person (double occupancy). Price includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte; air taxes, fees, surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full); hotels; transfers; most meals; full-time tour manager; local guides. Cancellation waiver/insurance (\$150 per person) is not included.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese  
(704) 370-3332 — or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).





CAMPAIGN '08

Once allies on  
immigration,  
Obama, McCain  
now diverge

Reform plans differ  
on approach, issues

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is second  
in a series on the 2008 election.

WASHINGTON — Not  
long ago, the two leading  
presidential candidates clearly  
supported the same approaches  
to fixing the dysfunctional U.S.  
immigration system.

In 2006, Democratic  
nominee Sen. Barack Obama  
of Illinois was among those  
working to try to pass the ill-fated  
comprehensive immigration  
reform bill co-written by  
Republican nominee Sen. John  
McCain of Arizona and Sen. Ted  
Kennedy, D-Mass.

Although they were on

See CAMPAIGN, page 5

What would  
Jesus do?

Scholars look at  
morality in the Bible

BY CINDY WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of  
an ongoing series on the Bible.

VATICAN CITY — Even  
when it comes to morality,  
Catholics are not biblical  
fundamentalists, although they  
view the Bible as an important  
source of moral guidance, said

See BIBLE, page 4

'It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim'



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

People kneel reverently as Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance during the eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte Oct. 4.

Thousands gather for  
Eucharistic Congress

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Incense  
wafted up to the clear blue sky as  
the silence of uptown Charlotte  
was broken by the sound of  
bells, prayers and song.

Despite worries of gas  
prices and shortages, spirits were  
high among the Catholics who  
processed through the streets of  
uptown Charlotte Oct. 4.

People from across the  
46-county Diocese of Charlotte  
joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis as  
he carried a monstrance holding  
the Blessed Sacrament from  
St. Peter Church to the  
Charlotte Convention Center.

The eucharistic procession  
was part of the fourth annual  
diocesan Eucharistic Congress  
held Oct. 3-4. Thousands of  
people attended the two-day  
event, themed "It Is Christ  
Whom We Proclaim."

The theme was taken from

See CONGRESS, page 7



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Father Richard Ho Lung performs with Jamaican singers during the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.

Proclaiming Christ's word

Congress speakers inform and inspire

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A  
diverse group of speakers  
presented, challenged and  
enlightened their audiences  
with a variety of topics at the  
Diocese of Charlotte's fourth  
annual Eucharistic Congress in  
Charlotte Oct. 3-4.

Covering everything from  
architecture to bioethics, this  
year's speakers educated and  
inspired with presentations on  
their areas of expertise in both  
English and Spanish.

The congress' keynote  
speaker was Cardinal John  
P. Foley, grand master of the  
Equestrian Order of the Holy  
Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

In his talk Friday evening,  
Oct. 3, Cardinal Foley reflected  
on eucharistic congresses in gen-  
eral and especially focused on  
the 1976 International Eucharis-  
tic Congress in Philadelphia.

See SPEAKERS, page 6



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics  
from around the world to your  
own backyard

## MEXICANS VS. MINUTEMEN



CNS PHOTO BY CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS, CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

Mexican consul Rosa Curto (center) looks over documents with people seeking identification cards outside St. James Church in Conway, S.C., Sept. 27. A visit by consulate staff drew hundreds of people seeking immigration services, as well as protesters who oppose illegal immigration.

## Mobile Mexican consulate helps immigrants, is target of protests

CONWAY, S.C. (CNS) — A visit by a mobile Mexican consulate to a Catholic church in Conway drew hundreds of people seeking immigration services but also sparked a protest by activists opposed to illegal immigration.

Members of the Horry County chapter of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps and other local residents showed up to protest the consulate's visit because they said it helped Hispanics who were in the country illegally get fake identification.

Officials from the mobile consulate, based in Raleigh, N.C., said they were there to help Mexican nationals get valid cards called "matriculas" that could be used for travel or to prove identification in other situations.

Consulate staff set up their services at St. James Church Sept. 27, with large crowds of people gathering at the church throughout the day.

The group of 20 Minuteman held signs with anti-immigration slogans and some that criticized the Catholic Church and St. James Church for allowing the consulate's visit.

Michael Visnjic, leader of the Horry County Minuteman chapter, refused to be interviewed by The Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Charleston Diocese, because he said he had disagreements with the Catholic Church over its treatment of illegal immigrants and other issues.

Other protesters refused to give their names, and some said it was because they feared reprisals from pro-Mexican activists.

"I'm protesting the fact that the

Mexican consulate is giving out fake IDs," said Ted Sejda, a Vietnam veteran. "These people are using these IDs to get bank accounts and other things illegally. Illegals are overrunning the country."

The mobile Mexican consulate's workers were in Conway to provide photo ID cards, said Rosa Curto, a Raleigh-based Mexican consul who serves North and South Carolina.

To get the "matriculas," people had to provide original documents such as birth certificates which were checked against a database of Mexican records, she said.

"Every year we schedule our visits in areas where there is a large Mexican community," Curto said. "People can use these cards to prove their nationality. They have an official ID they can show to authorities and use to do things like cash a check."

Father Rick LaBrecque, pastor of St. James Church, invited the mobile consulate to visit. The church serves a large Hispanic community in Conway and at its nearby mission church.

"We knew it would be a real service to our community," he said. "This consulate provides people with a universally recognized ID. We mainly wanted to provide a service to our parishioners, but anyone who came for the services is welcome."

The Minuteman Civil Defense Corps is a volunteer organization with state chapters around the country. Members provide local law enforcement agencies with what they say is evidence of violations of U.S. immigration law.

## Too early to see effects of financial crisis on faith lives, some say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although spiritual directors are not seeing much effect on their work from the nationwide economic crisis thus far, many predict that financial burdens facing the people they counsel will eventually affect their spiritual lives as well.

That was the consensus from Catholic News Service interviews with Catholic spiritual directors chosen at random from the Web site of Spiritual Directors International.

"Right now I can't say that I've seen an increase" in concerns about the economic situation, said Sister Beatrice Ste. Marie, a School Sister of Notre Dame who serves as a spiritual director in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y.

"But the insecurities prompted by the financial crisis raise a number of spiritual issues for people," she added. "I expect that I'm going to see and hear more of it."

Jesuit Father Kenneth Caufield of New York said, "I don't have many

people who have been affected" because he provides spiritual direction primarily to men and women religious. "I get it indirectly, in their concern for their families," he said.

Sister Iris Ann Ledden, a School Sister of Notre Dame, provides spiritual direction individuals in the Lexington, Ky., area. "None of them has really brought up that this is affecting" their faith lives, she said. "It's a little too early. But down the line I may begin to see it in a different light."

But Sister Ledden has seen some changes in the lives of those with whom she works. "One directee had retired, but now is going to have to go back to work," she said.

Another told Sister Ledden she is now going to have to make appointments with her in conjunction with other activities she has scheduled, in order to save on gas costs.

"They're all beginning to feel the pinch," she said.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

BISCOE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at Our Lady of the Americas Church, 298 Farmers Market Rd., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "Parishes." For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and Our Lady of the Americas Church.

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A public square rosary will be held in honor of the 150th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, Oct. 11 at 12 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of Pack Place Education Arts & Science Center, 2 S. Pack Sq. This rosary is in conjunction with 3,000 others nationwide and is coordinated by The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign. For more information, contact Lisena Maria Moss at (828) 254-4526 or [jemoss@charter.net](mailto:jemoss@charter.net).

### BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — A presentation on "The Catholic

Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "Parishes." For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and St. Elizabeth Church.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians invites women of the diocese to join them in celebrating their Irish-Catholic heritage. The next meeting will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — A four-week Catholic Scripture study on "Humanae Vitae," Pope Paul VI's encyclical on contraception and the role of procreation in marriage, will be offered at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Classes begin Oct. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. and will meet weekly through Nov. 6 in classrooms 1 & 2 of the activity center. For more information, contact Brian and Angela Williams at [angiegirl67@yahoo.com](mailto:angiegirl67@yahoo.com) or (704) 847-7311. Deadline for registration is Oct. 9.

CHARLOTTE — A series of talks on "Understanding Your Late Life Choices" will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The first talk, "A Doctor's Viewpoint on our Aging Brain" will be presented by Charlotte neurologist Dr. Mohammad Bolouri Oct. 22. These talks are free and open to the public. To make reservations, call St. Gabriel Church at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — Elizabeth Ministry in conjunction with the diocesan Respect Life Office will be hosting "God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official urges governments to rid world of nuclear weapons

VATICANCITY(CNS)—Humanity deserves to live in a world that is free from nuclear weapons, a Vatican official told the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog agency.

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican’s chief foreign affairs official, said the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty, which aims to limit the spread of nuclear weapons, is “an important element for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes” and “it must not be weakened.”

“Humanity deserves no less than the full cooperation of all states on this important matter,” he said.

Nearly 200 countries have agreed to the treaty, including the U.S., U.K., Russia and China.

The archbishop spoke Sept. 29 during the 52nd International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, Sept. 29-Oct. 4.

**Prenatal Diagnosis** Oct. 24, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. The purpose of this conference is to help the Catholic community better encourage parents to carry to term after a poor prenatal diagnosis. Registration is required. For information, contact Tracy Winsor at (704) 543-4780 or e-mail at ohboys@carolina.rr.com.

**CHARLOTTE** — St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, hosts “*Learning and Voting the Common Good*,” a presentation by Father James Hug, in Biss Hall (beneath the church) Oct. 25, 9–11 a.m., with refreshments served at 8:30 a.m. Father Hug is executive director for the Washington, D.C.-based Center of Concern, a Catholic organization working in collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith networks to bring a prophetic voice for social and economic justice to a global context. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Barbara Dellinger at (704) 807-6125.

**MINT HILL** — A public square rosary will be held in honor of the 150th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, Oct. 11 at noon at The Park on Fairview, 8850 Fairview Rd. This rosary is in conjunction with 3,000 others nationwide and is coordinated by The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign. For more information, contact Donna Shaheen at (704) 882-7504.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

**GREENSBORO** — To honor the 35-year anniversary of the *St. Joseph Intercessory Prayer Group*, a celebration will be held in the Kloster Center at St. Pious X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. Speakers will be Father James Stuhrenberg, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace Church, and Hannah Hammer, parishioner of St. Pious X Church. Music will be provided by Freeway. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Pat Condon at (336) 288-6093.

**GREENSBORO** — The parish health ministry and flames of fire prayer group will sponsor a *charismatic healing Mass* at Our Lady of Grace

Church, 2205 West Market St., Oct. 18, 1-3 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Fidel Melo, pastor. Music will be provided by Freeway. Richard Collins, parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church, will be speaking about the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Healing teams will be available for personal ministry after the Mass. For more information, contact Ben D’Apollo at (336) 812-3730.

Archbishop Mamberti said the Vatican urges government authorities to “resume with greater determination a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons.”

“Global security must not rely on nuclear weapons” and to that end governments must work together to support and enact the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, he said.

The treaty would ban nuclear explosions for military or civilian purposes. More than 40 countries must ratify the treaty for it to be enacted. The U.S., China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea have not yet ratified the treaty.

He said the Vatican is convinced the ratification and enforcement of this treaty would represent “a great leap forward for the future of humanity, as well as for the protection of the earth and environment entrusted to our care by the Creator.”

**GREENSBORO** — A presentation on “*The Catholic Church’s Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform*” will take place in the Parish Life Center at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops’ Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on “Parishes.” For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and St. Paul the Apostle Church.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

**WINSTON-SALEM** — The national “40 Days for Life” campaign will be held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or visit [www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem](http://www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope urges church to help couples see beauty of natural procreation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church must find ways to help Catholic couples see the beauty of respecting the true design of procreation and avoid artificial reproduction and contraception, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Pope Benedict asked why is it that the world and many Catholics still have a difficult time understanding the church’s teachings 40 years after Pope Paul VI’s encyclical on human life and birth control.

The encyclical, “*Humanae Vitae*” (“Of Human Life”), “illustrates and defends the beauty of conjugal love” while respecting the divine laws of nature, he said in a written message addressed Oct. 3 to participants of an international congress dedicated to the encyclical.

The Oct. 3-4 congress in Rome was sponsored by Rome’s Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family. Pope Benedict said technical responses to “the great human questions” such as life and death often seem to offer the easier solution.

“But in reality (a technical solution such as artificial contraception) obscures the underlying question concerning the meaning of human sexuality” and the need for couples to exercise “responsible control” over their sexual desires so that the expression of those desires may become expressions of self-giving, “personal love,” he said.

When talking about love between two people, technical responses cannot replace “a maturation of freedom,” the pope said.

Reason is not enough for understanding the true meaning of conjugal love, he said, as “the eyes of the heart” also are needed to grasp the demands of true love and “embrace the totality of the human being.”

The church, in its teachings and pastoral programs concerning marriage and the family, “must know how to guide couples to understand with their hearts the wonderful plan God has inscribed in the human body.”

Pope Benedict also praised and encouraged the work of Catholic research institutes for their efforts in helping couples overcome infertility through natural methods that fully safeguard the dignity of human procreation.

“The possibility of procreating a new human life is included in the full giving” of husband and wife, he wrote.

By creating life, the expression of conjugal love not only “resembles, but takes part in the love of God who wants to express himself by calling people” to be open to life, he said.

Excluding the possibility of bringing new life into the world denies “the intimate truth of nuptial love,” he said.

Blessings in all shapes and sizes



CNS PHOTO BY CHERYL RAVELO, REUTERS

A Catholic priest sprinkles holy water on a baby Bengal tiger during World Animal Day in Malabon, Philippines, Oct. 4. The blessing coincided with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

Episcopal calendar

Oct. 12 (7 p.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation

Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

Oct. 16

40 Days for Life vigil

Charlotte

Oct. 17 (10 a.m.)

Diocesan Finance Council meeting

Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Oct. 18 (10 a.m.)

Sacrament of confirmation

St. James the Greater Church, Concord

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:



# Scholars look at morality in the Bible

BIBLE, from page 1

top Catholic scholars.

The various books of the Bible were written in different epochs, in different cultures and by different authors, the scholars said, so when looking for moral precepts, a Christian cannot focus on just one line.

In their new document, "The Bible and Morality," the scholars on the Pontifical Biblical Commission said biblical morality is not so much a set of dos and don'ts as it is a set of principles meant to help Christians grow in perfection and contribute to establishing God's kingdom on earth.

The English translation of the document rolled off the Vatican printing press Sept. 24, less than two weeks before the opening of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible.

In the 235-page booklet, the biblical scholars presented two main criteria for judging human actions or potential actions: Does it protect and promote the dignity of the human person? Does it conform to something Jesus would do?

With those two criteria in mind, and taking into account the fact that some biblical precepts are repeated so often that their ongoing validity cannot be denied, the scholars addressed only a very few specific moral questions.

Acknowledging a development in morality throughout the Old Testament and culminating with the teaching of Jesus, they said the Bible: clearly insists on protecting human life from conception to natural death; defends marriage as the lifelong union of a man and a woman; obliges human beings to safeguard the environment; and insists that priority be given to the needs of the poor, the weak and the sick when making decisions.

## Commanding values

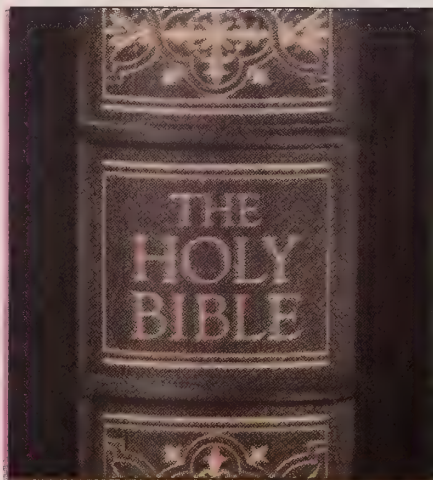
The scholars opened their document with a reprint of the Ten Commandments and the beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount.

The biblical idea of morality is more than "a code of behavior to be adopted or avoided" or "a list of virtues and vices to be practiced or countered" in order to protect individuals and society, they said.

For Christians, living according to biblical morality is a spiritual quest, the document said, and striving to act in a morally upright manner is a response to God's gift of love and his willingness always to forgive.

The Ten Commandments are not the harsh part of a carrot-and-stick approach God takes to dealing with humanity, but contain the principles necessary so that each person and all people together can deal responsibly with the freedoms God has given them, the scholars said.

The commandments promote the values of paying homage to God, recognizing his presence in the world, recognizing that time has a sacred value, honoring the family, upholding the right



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Shown is the New American Bible, family edition.

to life, safeguarding marriage, defending human freedom and dignity, protecting people's reputations, respecting their family and group ties and respecting personal property.

The scholars said the commandments "are presented in decreasing order of value, from the most to the least important," with God at the top and material goods at the bottom.

Unfortunately, they said, modern societies often seem to assign value in the completely opposite way, not just putting human beings before God, but putting material goods before people.

In his life and in the Sermon on the Mount, they said, Jesus literally radicalized the values promoted by the Ten Commandments, urging his listeners to strive toward perfection in truly being an image of God in the world.

For the scholars, that striving is a key point of biblical morality: Just as God revealed himself and his plan for salvation over time, the human response to God's gift is something that naturally occurs in stages and includes failures, forgiveness and starting again.

The Eucharist is both nourishment to strengthen believers and the renewal of Christ's total sacrifice, which reminds believers that they must never be content with divisions and moral failures, they said.

"Unless there is obstinate resistance on the part of individuals or the community, participation in the Eucharist will always be a strong call to conversion and the best means to give new vitality to the covenant, which renews the life and conduct of the church and, through the church, of the world," they said.

As some 250 bishops prepared to gather at the Vatican for the synod discussion on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church," the biblical commission document reminded readers that what the Bible reveals is not a specific moral code, but God himself.

What the Bible demonstrates, the scholars said, is that "God is not a dour creditor intent on putting his accounts in order, but a benevolent creator who restores human beings to their pristine conditions of being loved by him and mends the damage inflicted on the cosmos" by their errors.

# Here's the word: Catholics must know Bible to know Jesus, say bishops

BY CINDI WOODEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Catholic Church wants people to know and love the word of God — the Bible — so that they will come to know and love the Word of God — Jesus Christ.

While the world Synod of Bishops is focusing on ways to educate Catholics in the importance of reading, understanding and praying with the Bible, several participants addressing the synod Oct. 6-7 insisted that people understand that for Christians the Word of God is Jesus.

"When asked what 'the word of God' is, many believers respond, 'the Bible.' The response is not wrong, but it is incomplete," said Italian Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, rector of Rome's Pontifical Lateran University and president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Because the word of God is more than the Bible, he told the synod Oct. 7, Christianity is not so much a "religion of the book" as a "religion of the Word," who is Jesus.

Brazilian Bishop Filippo Santoro of Petropolis said it is through reading and hearing the written word that Christians can come into contact with Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec, introducing the synod's work Oct. 6, said, "to begin, we must start from the mystery of a God who speaks, a God who is himself the Word and gives himself to be known by humanity in many ways."

Through creation, through his covenant with the Israelites, through the prophets and the Scriptures, God reveals himself, said the cardinal, the synod's recording secretary. God's revelation becomes complete in Jesus Christ.

The Bible contains the essential account of how God has spoken to humanity, he said.

"Thanks to the Bible, humanity knows it has been called by God; the Spirit helps humanity listen and welcome the word of God, thus becoming the 'ecclesia' (church), the community assembled by the Word," Cardinal Ouellet said.

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For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 - or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



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## Obama, McCain on immigration

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

the same page two years ago, as the 2008 election approaches, distinctions between the two candidates on the issue have become more pronounced.

Both candidates' policy statements on immigration contain many of the elements promoted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its election guide, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

But the ways in which Obama and McCain say they would approach their policy goals diverge, with McCain now taking an enforcement-first approach, while Obama continues to support addressing a wide range of problems at the same time.

"Faithful Citizenship" calls for a reform plan that includes "a temporary work program with worker protections and a path to permanent residency; family reunification policies; a broad and fair legalization program; access to legal protections, including due process and essential public programs; refuge for those fleeing persecution and exploitation; and policies to address the root causes of migration."

The 2006 McCain-Kennedy bill would have provided a path to legalization for many of the estimated 12 million immigrants who are in the country without proper documents, reformed the family immigration system and created a new temporary-worker program.

That bill and several subsequent versions crafted over the next year failed to get enough Republican support to come to a vote in the Senate. The House has held hearings on assorted immigration bills, but has not brought a wide-ranging bill to the floor.

The few bills that have come through Congress and made it into law in the last several years have all been focused on a border fence and enforcement measures.

As the presidential campaign progressed over the last year, McCain said he no longer would support his own bill because he has come to believe the U.S.-Mexican border must be secured against illegal entry before changes are made in law or policy.

The immigration plan on his campaign Web site says that only after border-state governors certify that "the borders are secure" would he work on other immigration issues.

Those later steps would include prosecuting "employers that continue to hire illegal immigrants," addressing labor demands for immigrant workers, and dealing with the backlogs in family immigration and the millions of undocumented immigrants already here.

Obama's immigration plan backs the multipronged approach referred to as comprehensive reform. While he also talks about better equipping border agents, he would at the same time seek a legalization program and make family immigration easier, according to his Web site.

Obama has said he would push for a comprehensive immigration reform bill in his first year in office.

Like Obama's plan, McCain's plan

would require undocumented individuals to register, pay fines and back taxes, undergo background checks and wait for permanent legal status behind applicants who are applying for residency through the normal process.

McCain's proposal adds, "The program will also ensure that all undocumented aliens either leave or follow the path to legal residence." It does not elaborate on how that would work.

A key to McCain's shift in stated priorities on immigration lies in the "enforcement-first" emphasis of the GOP's base. The Republican Party's platform takes a more stern approach to immigration than McCain has. It devotes lengthy sections to "the rule of law" as the overriding principle for immigration policy, and says "we oppose amnesty."

It also says "the American people" have rejected the idea of mass legalization. It calls for completing the fence on the Mexican border, denying federal funds to "sanctuary" cities that don't actively seek information on immigration status and opposes allowing undocumented immigrants to have driver's licenses.

It also calls for a 2010 census that counts "every person legally abiding in the United States." That would be a reversal of Census Bureau policy and its concerted efforts in recent censuses to count every individual no matter his or her legal status.

Census data is used to allocate funding for schools, police and emergency services and other programs provided without regard to legal residency status.

The Democratic Party platform calls for comprehensive immigration reform in language that closely mirrors Obama's position paper.

Kevin Appleby, director of migration and refugee policy for the USCCB, said he believes that as president either McCain or Obama would "engage the issue."

Although Obama has seemed more inclined than McCain to push for a comprehensive immigration bill quickly, "we'll be able to work with either one of them," Appleby said. "When all is said and done, by the third year of the new administration, either one of them will fully engage the issue."

Immigration has not been much of a factor in the campaigning of either candidate — at least not in English. In Spanish-language media Obama and McCain have waged a battle of advertising and press releases.

The New York Times Sept. 19 took both candidates to task for lying about each other in Spanish-language advertisements on immigration.

It called one ad by McCain accusing Obama of helping kill last year's comprehensive reform bill "a jaw-dropping distortion."

The Times editorial said Obama's retaliatory ad "was just as fraudulent." It said the ad "slimed Mr. McCain as a friend and full-bore ally of restrictionists like Rush Limbaugh, even though Mr. Limbaugh has long attacked Mr. McCain's moderation."

The editorial noted that "immigration was broken long before the candidates started this repugnant ad war, and looks as if it will stay that way for at least the duration of this campaign."



# Speakers inform and inspire

SPEAKERS, from page 1

"I want people to get a sense of the implications of the Eucharist," said Cardinal Foley in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

Eucharistic congresses are important because they "give us an opportunity to celebrate our faith together and give witness of our belief to others," he said.

In keeping with the theme of this year's Eucharistic Congress, "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim," Cardinal Foley encouraged the audience to imitate St. Paul by sharing faith with gratitude, with pride and with love.

"As Catholics I think we are sometimes too shy about sharing our faith with others," said Cardinal Foley.

"Faith is the only thing that increases as we give it away," he said. "Why don't we attempt to share that with others?"

The homilist during the holy hour and Benediction on Saturday morning, Oct. 4, was retired Archbishop John F. Donoghue, second bishop of Charlotte.

Archbishop Donoghue talked about the human reality of hunger and "the need for substance that amasses from the depth of our being."

"The food that nourishes our soul is Jesus Christ," said Archbishop Donoghue. "We are here to do this in his memory and bring to the Lord every good thing that we are as people and as church."

The archbishop spoke about the diversity of our church as represented by the attendees at this year's Eucharistic Congress. "Our roles, talents and our gifts are as countless as the stars in the sky," said Archbishop Donoghue.

"Throughout this day we are here to share our gifts and to help one another," he said. "Culture, language, age difference and prayer style will not divide us, but instead draw us together, giving us a better sense of who we are and how Christ lives in each of us."

The first speaker for the general session was Father Richard Ho Lung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers dedicated to service of the poor.

The title of Father Ho Lung's talk was "Servant of the Poor" and focused on the Eucharist and the transformation

of human love into divine love.

"The Lord is calling us to love the poor, the stranger, the prisoner, the discarded and the forgotten," said Father Ho Lung, "to love our enemy and do good to those who hate us. It is a type of living and loving which transforms the world."

Father Ho Lung's presentation featured a musical performance by six members of the group "Father Ho Lung and Friends," made up of Jamaican artists performing songs written by Father Ho Lung.

When asked about the importance of music in his ministry, Father Ho Lung said, "It is a natural expression of who I am and the joys in my heart."

The next speaker for the general track was Tarek Saab, who appeared on NBC TV's "The Apprentice."

During his delivery, entitled "Faith Gut Check," Saab stressed the importance of living with the afterlife in mind. "There is a spiritual warfare ablaze in our society," said Saab. "Losing one's life is nothing compared to losing one's soul."

Saab shared a similar message when he talked to the high school-age audience. "We are a country of addicts," he said. "We're addicted to so many things that we seemingly can't live without. They take time away from our faith and distort our view of society."

In terms of what he wanted audience members to take away from his talk, Saab said, "My greatest hope is that people will shift their priorities."

"Power isn't having the world at your fingertips," he said. "Power is having the world at your fingertips and being able to give it up."

Following Saab was a presentation by architectural historian Denis McNamara, assistant director and faculty member of the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake and Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.

In his lecture, "Proclaiming Christ in Sacred Art and Architecture," McNamara said he wanted people to "come away with an understanding that church architecture and theology work hand in hand."

"On earth we try to use material of earth to reveal what heaven is like," said McNamara. "We're getting ready for heaven by experiencing the glory of heaven now."

For McNamara, the study of sacred architecture has "been the vehicle that

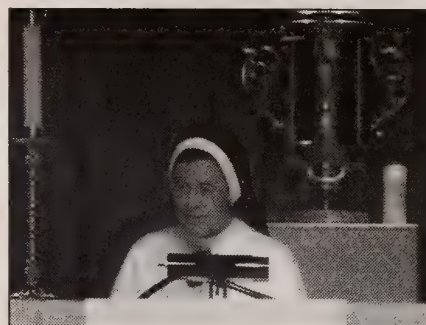


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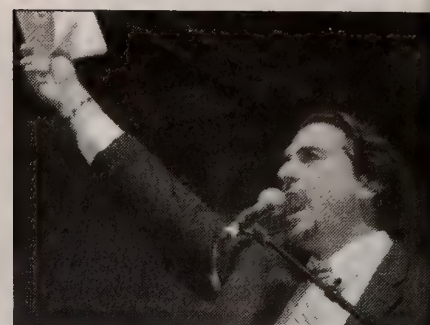


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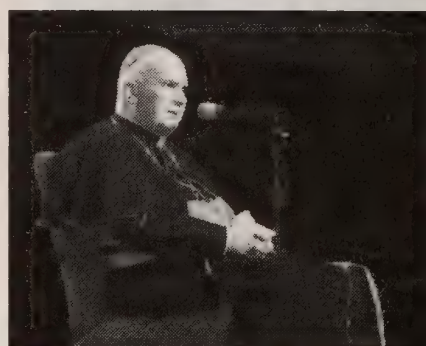


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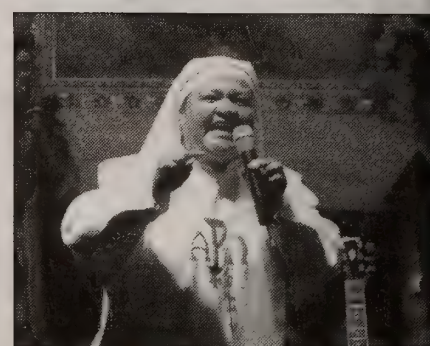


PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Clockwise (from upper left): Speakers Dominican Sister Terese Auer, Roberto Ramirez, Sister Bertha Lopez Chavez and Cardinal John P. Foley are pictured during the Eucharistic Congress Oct. 3-4.

God has chosen for me to find my path to salvation."

But you don't have to be an architectural historian to reap the spiritual benefits of sacred art and architecture.

McNamara suggests reading the Book of Revelation, particularly chapters four and 20, for inspiration.

"In Revelation, St. John is taken on a tour of heaven by an angel. If you make your church look like that, and your liturgy sound like that," McNamara said, "then you have a very good start."

Dominican Sister Terese Auer was the final speaker for the general session.

Sister Auer is the chair of the bioethics department at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Dumfries, Va.

In her address, "Proclaiming Christ through Our Reverence for the Human Person," Sister Auer spoke about the dignity of the human person and how that is related to being in the image of God.

"Bioethics is the study of how we can use the life sciences and medicine in an ethical way," Sister Auer told the audience. "The criterion for any ethical issue is to focus on the human person."

She stressed the importance of this curriculum being incorporated into the science departments in our schools because she said "we want young people to be able to handle the bioethical issues of our time."

"In a society where science reigns supreme, we need an ethical balance so that science serves the person" as opposed to dominating the person, she said.

In terms of how bioethics ties into the moral responsibility of Catholics in today's world, Sister Auer said, "It is a hand and glove fit."

Speakers for the Hispanic track included Roberto Ramirez, a member of the Community of the Servants of Christ, who offered testimony of his conversion experience that called him to make radical changes in his life; Lupita Venegas, a family therapist and international speaker on human development; and Sister Bertha Lopez Chavez, a pro-life coordinator in Mexico, founding member of The City of Joy Foundation in Mexico and a director of PAIPID, a Catholic rehabilitation center providing care and counseling for people with HIV and AIDS and their families.

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Thursday, November 13 — St. James, Hamlet — 10:30am-3pm

Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, November 4th

Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson, retired, Belmont Abbey



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# Thousands gather for Eucharistic Congress

CONGRESS, from page 1

St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, as the congress occurred during the Pauline year convoked by Pope Benedict XVI to honor the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

"The Eucharistic Congress is an opportunity for the entire diocese to come together each year to celebrate our faith and our love for the eucharistic Lord," said Bishop Jugis in a June letter to parishioners about the congress.

"The Eucharist brings us together as one body in Christ. It is the source and the summit of our Christian life, as well as the heart of our Christian life," he said.

Knights of Columbus color guard and first communicants from around the diocese led the procession, followed by deacons and priests of the diocese and guest clergy, including retired Archbishop John F. Donoghue, second bishop of Charlotte.

Following Bishop Jugis in the procession were representatives of many of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese, as well as religious ministries, lay ministries and cultural

groups. Hundreds of people watching the procession along the city streets knelt reverently as the Eucharist passed by, and many of them joined the procession behind their parish banners.

"This shows that our faith is alive and well," said Joseph Barrett, a parishioner of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton. "For Catholics and non-Catholics, this is a good witness for our faith."

"It's great to see people from all over the diocese," said Grace Narus, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"It's growing each year because the church is growing bigger and better," she said.

The procession made its way into the convention center, where a holy hour followed with eucharistic adoration, prayer and song. Archbishop Donoghue delivered the homily during the holy hour.

## Spirit-filled song

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte opened the congress with a greeting Friday evening, Oct. 3, followed by a concert of sacred choral music.

The choir, comprised of approximately 110 singers from 14 churches around the Diocese of Charlotte, performed a collection of songs that represented the seasons of the liturgical



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Thousands of people participate in the vigil Mass of the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.



Left: Priests concelebrate the vigil Mass of the Eucharistic Congress Oct. 4.

year and various time periods in the history of the Catholic Church.

"We really did try to span all variables of music history," said Tiffany Gallozzi, concert conductor and music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Following the concert, Cardinal John P. Foley spoke about the importance of eucharistic congresses.

Cardinal Foley, the grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, talked about his experiences at the 1976 eucharistic congress in Philadelphia, one of two international eucharistic congresses held in the United States.

Afterward Cardinal Foley's talk, eucharistic adoration took place throughout the night at St. Peter Church, with a number of groups — including clergy, religious, young adults and families — each spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

## Conveying the Word

More music and speakers were featured throughout Saturday's program.

A choir from Charlotte Catholic High School entertained the crowd, as did Father Richard Ho Lung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor. He spoke and performed with singers and musicians from Jamaica, while another lively band entertained the thousands of people attending the Hispanic portion of the congress. The talks in English and Spanish featured a variety of topics by several diverse speakers, including a reality TV star and a bioethicist.

Tarek Saab, a Maronite Catholic who appeared in 2005 on NBC's "The Apprentice," spoke to both teenagers and the general audience about living their faith. Denis McNamara, an architectural historian, presented the importance of sacred art and architecture.

Dominican Sister Terese Auer, chair of the bioethics department at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Virginia, discussed the importance of protecting human dignity.

Speakers at the Hispanic track included Roberto Ramirez, an active member of the Servants of the Living Christ, a community of lay people; Lupita Venegas, a family therapist and international speaker; and Sister Bertha Lopez Chavez, a pro-life coordinator in Mexico.

In addition to a large vendor area and cultural hours — where members of the African-American, Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese Catholic communities shared their cultures and traditions — there was a series of talks for middle- and high-school students and children.

Congress participants spent time in eucharistic adoration and hundreds received the sacrament of reconciliation offered in both English and Spanish.

Bishop Jugis has announced plans for a fifth Eucharistic Congress to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 25-26, 2009.

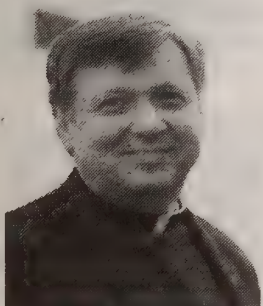


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PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance into the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.



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Above: Hundreds of people visit the vendor area during the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.

Right: Teens dance during the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.

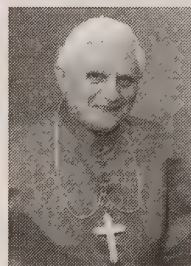


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

## 'It Is Christ Whom We



Thousands of people take part in the eucharistic procession toward the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4. Congress, this year themed "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim."



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**Note:** In order for you to get the very most out of these lectures, you are invited to read prior to the lecture the designated St. Paul letter and the appropriate chapter from Father Raymond Brown's "Introduction

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**Thursday, February 5, 2009**  
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*The Letter to the Galatians*

**Thursday, May 7, 2009**  
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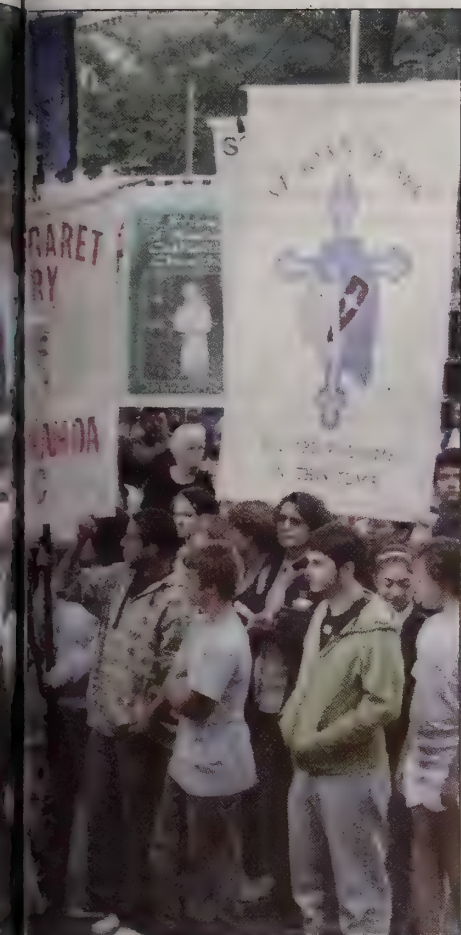


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Procession kicked off the second day of the Eucharistic



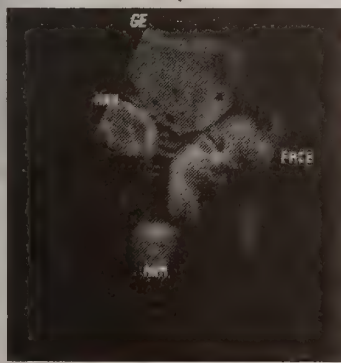
PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis raises the monstrance during the holy hour of the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

First communicants are pictured before the eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte Oct. 4.



More than 100,000 expectant couples each year receive the devastating news of a poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD). It may be the detection of a fetal heart defect, kidneys that are too small for gestation, or evidence of spina bifida or Down Syndrome, but whatever the specifics, shocked and broken-hearted parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated. With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying to term, 80% of these pregnancies end in abortion.

### God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis

Friday, October 24th - 9 AM - 3 PM

Elizabeth Ministry, in conjunction with the Diocesan Respect Life Office, is hosting a conference to increase awareness regarding this "new kind of crisis pregnancy" and to improve outreach to encourage parents to carry to term.

**Morning program:** information from speakers and a parent panel

**Afternoon program:** three concurrent roundtable sessions focusing on the development of perinatal hospice and medical resource support services, and improving the Catholic response to the diagnosis of Down Syndrome

A light lunch will be served.

**Location:** 1st Floor Conference Room, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte.



Reservations are required. 704-370-3228.

Parking available across Church Street from the Pastoral Center.

Directions:  
[www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html)

Info: Tracy Winsor at 704.543.4780 or [elizabethministry@roadrunner.com](mailto:elizabethministry@roadrunner.com).

## Reflecting and proclaiming

Participants contemplate theme of Eucharistic Congress

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Thousands of Catholics from around the Diocese of Charlotte converged for the diocese's fourth annual Eucharistic Congress.

The event, this year themed "It Is Christ Whom We Proclaim," was held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3-4.

The theme was taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, as the congress occurred during the Pauline year convoked by Pope Benedict XVI to honor the 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

"St. Paul's sole passion was to proclaim Christ," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis in a June letter to parishioners announcing the congress theme.

"In our Eucharistic Congress, it is Christ whom we proclaim in our eucharistic procession through the streets of Charlotte, in our holy hour of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in the celebration of the Mass, in the talks by our speakers and in our sacred music concert," said Bishop Jugis.

"The entire Eucharistic Congress from beginning to end is a proclamation of Christ," said the bishop. "The theme we have chosen, therefore, not only honors St. Paul and his apostolic mission, but also appropriately expresses the spirit of the Eucharistic Congress — to proclaim Christ."

Throughout the two-day event, participants reflected on the theme and what it means to them.

"I proclaim Jesus as King by going to church, praying and believing in him," said teenager Jairo Riascos, a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. "I know that he (the eucharistic Jesus) exists for real and I proclaim him as my Savior by my actions, which include following the commandments and receiving the sacraments."

"By proclaiming Christ in our lives, we must give of ourselves to his life as we follow the Bible and love one another," said Nguyen Van De of St. Joseph Church in Charlotte. "We must give ourselves completely to Jesus and pray for his forgiveness as we join him along his way. This will bring us to eternal life."

By proclaiming Christ, we speak the "good news" across the entire world, said Peter Shaw, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

To paraphrase "the words of St. Francis, we must go out into the world and proclaim the Gospel and, when necessary, we should even use words," said Shaw.

"We must proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior because he commanded us to," said Deacon Andy Cilone of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City. "He is the Good News. He is the answer to our worldly strife. We accomplish this by living like him and imitating him in all things — all the way to picking up our own crosses and following him."



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

People take part in eucharistic adoration during the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.

### WANT MORE PHOTOS?

More photographs from the 2008 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte are available online at the diocesan Web site, [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org).

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Archbishop calls Catholics to fight for 'soul of public square'

REVIEWED BY DAVID GIBSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"God did not put us here to sit out the struggle for the soul of the public square," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver writes in "Render Unto Caesar."

If one needed to sum up the book's principal intent in just 18 words, that sentence might well suffice.

Archbishop Chaput wants Catholics in today's America to nourish their nation's greatest ideals with "courage, honesty and active political engagement," and without leaving their faith on the sidelines of the public square.

He carefully explores how faith and political life interrelate — what their relationship should and should not be.

I suspect many will feel after reading this book that they've gotten to know Archbishop Chaput in a new way, particularly if in the past they knew him largely through brief quotations in news reports on occasions when he weighed in publicly on the church and politics. This is, indeed, a book of strongly held convictions, strongly presented.

Still, more than a few Catholics — whether right-leaning or left-leaning on political or ecclesial issues — may find themselves challenged by the archbishop's restraint and balance here on several sensitive matters.

What does Archbishop Chaput oppose and favor in "Render Unto Caesar"? In his vision, Catholics never would remain silent or complacent when faced with abuses of human dignity and violations of the natural law in the public realm.

Neutrality is decidedly not what Archbishop Chaput wants Catholics to express in public debate, nor does he want Catholics reduced by contested issues to a cowardly posture. The archbishop wants Catholics to shape their activities in the public square according to their beliefs.

If America "has changed from the land of opportunity to the land of private appetites over the last few decades," one reason is that "we haven't lived what we say we believe," he says, adding, "Homelessness, poverty, abortion, the exploitation of undocumented immigrants, the neglect of the elderly — these are brazenly real problems in contemporary America."

"They won't go away by ... kicking religion out of the public discussion."

For its survival, American democracy "depends on people of character fighting for their beliefs in the public square — legally, ethically and nonviolently, but forcefully and without apology," says Archbishop Chaput.

The 12 chapters of "Render Unto Caesar" afford Archbishop Chaput the

opportunity to examine several issues now considered basic in discussions of the church and politics: abortion; the Catholic voter; whether to refuse holy Communion to some Catholic politicians; conscience; the separation of church and state; the natural law; bishops' roles; and major statements in the recent history of these discussions.

"Elected leaders," he says, "must make laws that reflect a well-formed conscience. When such laws are not produced, those same leaders must press to change them."

Furthermore, he insists, Catholics need to look much more self-critically at themselves as believers and at their "wholesale assimilation — 'absorption' might be a better word" — by America's culture.

It is quite natural for a book on Catholics and political life to turn some attention to church teaching on the relationship of the church and the modern world, a relationship that has preoccupied the entire church in a unique, ongoing way ever since the Second Vatican Council.

This relationship is addressed in a special way in Chapters 6 and 7 of "Render Unto Caesar" — key chapters for me.

In the council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, readers can see "a generous desire to positively engage the modern world," Archbishop Chaput says.

He points in a positive manner to church efforts to establish solidarity with the world's people and learn from the good things of this world.

At the same time, driving home his theme, he says Vatican II did not welcome "the extremes to which free societies tend," and he rejects any conclusion "that religion has nothing to say to the public square."

Chapter 7 concludes with this judgment: "Too many of us have become 'evangelizers' in the most ironic sense of the word: preaching the world to a church we claim to love, but which we no longer really understand."

Gibson was the founding editor of *Origins*, Catholic News Service's documentary service.



## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 19, 2008

Oct. 19, Twenty-ninth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 7-10
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b  
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

### God's compassion is infinite as universe

BY JEFF HENSLEY  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was a young man and had wandered away from God, one of the things that led me back to faith was my wonder at the enormity of creation.

My wife and I were in VISTA, a sort of domestic Peace Corps. We worked a half day in the local schools and with poor people in the rural Arkansas foothills the rest of the day.

We didn't do any harm and did a bit of good. I like to say it was the best money the federal government ever spent, because my wife has worked with poor kids ever since those days in 1971.

Living out in the country afforded me the luxury of taking my landlord's redwood picnic bench out onto the gravel drive in front of our tiny frame house evenings to lay down, lean back and take in more stars than I had ever seen before.

The thought of tiny me, gazing up

at what God had created, opened up my heart to be in utter awe that the one who had created all this had also created me. And because I'd been raised a Christian, I had a sense that despite his own incredible complexity, power and scale, he loved little, truly insignificant me.

Now the road to conversion only begins in such places. My wife and I began going to the little Catholic church up the road. We found fellowship and had religious dialogue with some of the other VISTA volunteers. I read the Bible a lot.

When we moved back to Fort Worth, we began sporadically attending our neighborhood Catholic church. In time, we committed to attending regularly, believing we would get back only as much as we gave, and without committing ourselves, that wouldn't amount to very much.

Our faith lives just kept on growing from that point, and we've never looked back or regretted making those commitments, responding to the love of a God large enough to create the universe, but humble enough to become one of us.

The Scriptures for this weekend speak of the greatness of God. Psalm 96 says: "For great is the Lord and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of naught, but the Lord made the heavens." I couldn't agree more.

**Questions:**

How does the complexity and beauty of the universe affect you and your faith life? How does God's compassion toward you make you feel?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 12-18

**Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14; **Monday**, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Callistus I)**, Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Galatians 5:18-25, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Ephesians 1:1-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 19-25

**Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21; **Monday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Ephesians 3:2-12, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday (St. Anthony Mary Claret)**, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday**, Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9.

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## Local deacon works to 'fireproof' marriages

GASTONIA—A deacon in Gastonia is helping to "fireproof" the sanctity of marriage in his community.

Deacon Jack Weisenhorn of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia was instrumental in bringing together married couples and firefighters for a screening of the movie "Fireproof."

The film stars Kirk Cameron as a small-town fireman who, under the guidance of his born-again father, works to save his seven-year marriage, despite the unyielding obstinacy of his wife.

The message — that a successful marriage is grounded in the knowledge that God loves us with all our faults — is the overriding virtue of the heartwarming, evangelical-flavored film, according to a review by Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Deacon Weisenhorn is a founder

and board member of First Things First of Gaston County, a nonprofit organization working to reduce the number of divorces in the county through pre-marriage education and ongoing marriage enrichment programs.

After the deacon and his wife, Rosemarie, attended an advance screening of the movie in Charlotte in July, they wanted to share its message with as many people as possible. Upon discussing ideas with Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church, they decided to buy out a showing of the movie after its opening Sept. 26 and promote it in the community.

Because firefighters are featured prominently, Deacon Weisenhorn wanted to extend invitations to local firefighters. After a meeting with Gastonia Fire Chief Kenneth Lay, the church arranged for 90 tickets to be given to Gastonia-area firefighters.



COURTESY PHOTO

Deacon Jack Weisenhorn (right) of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Gastonia gives a "Fireproof" movie ticket to Gastonia Fire Chief Kenneth Lay at a Gastonia fire house Oct. 3. Also pictured is Cheryl Harden, director of First Things First of Gaston County.

### Pennsylvania Priest to Host

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## Bishops' document on election goes high tech in podcast, video format

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ask Catholic teenagers if they've read a recent document by the U.S. bishops and you might get a blank look.

But ask if they've heard of the bishops' statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," either through a podcast, a video quiz on YouTube or its page on the social networking site Facebook, and you might get a nod of recognition.

That's what the U.S. bishops are hoping anyway.

"Faithful Citizenship," the document that urges Catholic voters to form their consciences around a variety of social concerns based on Catholic social teaching, is not something new.

The bishops initially published the document in 1975 and produce a new version of it about every four years to coincide with the national elections.

The document for the 2008 election was approved by the bishops in November 2007. But this time the document looks a lot younger. For starters, its Web site, [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org), has resources for youths and those who work with them.

The site is "tech savvy," according to Jill Rauh, youth and young adult coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

"I think if the church is going to be effective at communicating the message of

'Faithful Citizenship,' and all its messages, it needs to do so in ways that are appealing to young people," Rauh said.

She said getting youths to go beyond just reading the text or hearing about it is key to the new push behind the "Faithful Citizenship" quizzes, an iPod contest on the site and video clips.

The hope is that young people will not only get the document's message but talk about it, reflect on it and apply it to their lives.

The Web site suggests some formats for talking about "Faithful Citizenship," such as one called "Coffee Discussion," which includes a series of questions about social issues and Catholic teaching that friends could informally talk about over coffee.

And youth ministers and religious educators are not limited to just making handouts of the document. Instead they are given ideas for skits, murals, open-microphone nights and prayer services based on "Faithful Citizenship."

Rauh said the outreach to younger people is a recognition that they have "an important role to play in living out faith as leaders in the Catholic community. They are both the future and the present in our church."

And even if these Catholic youths are not old enough to vote, she said, they "still have a responsibility to be faithful citizens" — to be active in their communities and to challenge their leaders.



### "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform"

presented by

**Mr. Antonio Cube**

National Director

Justice for Immigrants (JFI)  
Campaign, US Conference of  
Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

**Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek, Greensboro

**Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Boone

**Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, 7-8:30 PM**

Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, 298 Farmers Market Road, Biscoe

For directions, go to [www.charlottdiocese.org](http://www.charlottdiocese.org), click on Parishes, select the city and then click on the parish. You will find directions at the bottom of the parish web page.

**About this presentation...**What principles form the basis of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform? How can the faith community help bring about a society that welcomes newcomers, especially people fleeing poverty and/or seeking reunion with family? As we seek immigration reform, can we concurrently reach the goals of fulfilling our faith's mandate to "welcome the stranger," maintaining our nation's security, and respecting the moral values and civil laws which guide our actions? These questions will be addressed during this presentation. For information on the "JFI Campaign" visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

Mr. Cube is the National Director of the USCCB's "Justice for Immigrants" Campaign. He has a broad range of experience in public affairs consultancy, community outreach, communications and legislative assistance. Prior to his current position, Mr. Cube served as the legislative director of the Washington State Catholic Conference and as a public relations consultant for the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Sponsored by: The Diocesan Liaison to the JFI Campaign, Hispanic Ministry, CSS and Host Parishes



## Standing up for life

Hundreds of Catholics around the Diocese of Charlotte took part in Life Chains to show their support for pro-life causes on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JERRY SCHMUGGE

Pro-life supporters take part in a Life Chain outside St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Oct. 5.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Youths hold signs during the Life Chain outside of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Approximately 40 people stand in a Life Chain outside of St. Ann Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday Oct. 5.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID FORPE

A boy holds a pro-life sign during a Life Chain in Greensboro on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5. Approximately 860 people participated in the Greensboro Life Chain.



PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above: Children take part in the Life Chain outside of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.

At left: Pro-life supporters take part in a Life Chain outside St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.

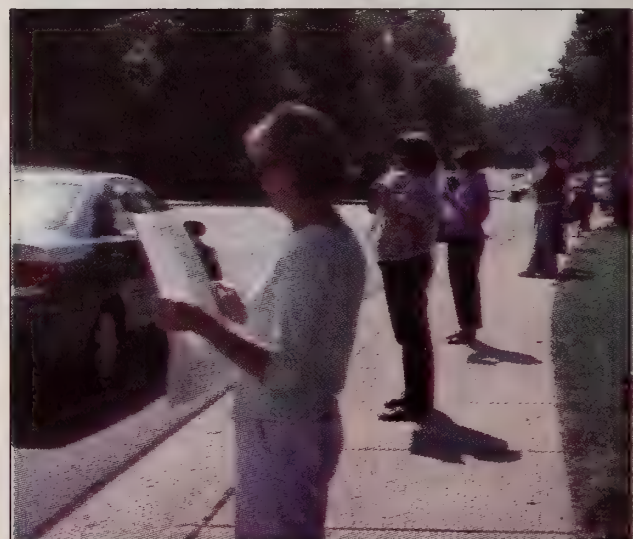


PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

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## A prize for poetry



PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

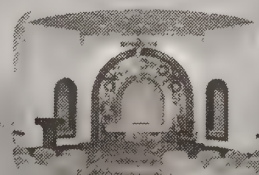
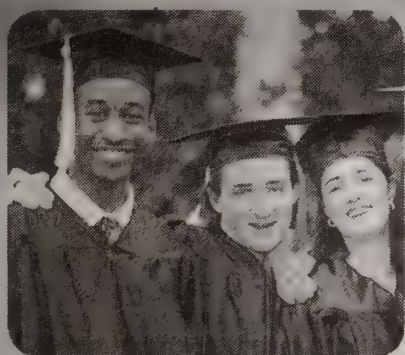
Gwen Parris, regent of Court St. Mary, Mother of God 2534 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, is pictured with Kaitlyn Karcher, 10, at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva Oct. 1. Kaitlyn, a parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of God Church, won second place for poetry in the grades 4-5 division of the Catholic Daughters 2008 national education contest. She received her award from Maryann Grabasky, Catholic Daughters N.C. state regent and national director, at a ceremony at the church Sept. 21. Kaitlyn's poem, "Darkness Nevermore," reflected "Jesus, the Light of the World," one of the two contest themes.

## Welcoming a new pastor



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is pictured with Redemptorist Father Joseph Dionne after his Mass of installation as pastor of St. James the Greater Church in Concord Sept. 29. Redemptorist priests have served the parish since 1974.



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St. Matthew Catholic School (TK-5) • 11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte  
St. Patrick Catholic School (K-5) • 1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

**MIDDLE SCHOOL—**  
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**HIGH SCHOOL—**  
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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Home is where the heart is

*Exploring the difference between living and dwelling*

"Where do you live?" is a not uncommon question; you hear it every day.

However, I recently heard an unusual answer to that question when a would-be wordsmith I know replied by saying, "I live wherever I am. I'm right here. I'm alive. Here is where I am, so this is where I live."

And then he added, "If you are asking me where I dwell, I'm happy to say that I dwell in Baltimore. I've dwelt there all my life."

Strange, isn't it, that "dwelling" carries something of a quaint connotation for most of us. Although it implies stability, it's rarely used as a meeting-of-the-coordinates, here-and-now specification of the place where you lay your head at night.

No, that's where you live.

There are many people who lived in Baltimore and moved. They live there no longer, but they are still alive. The same can be said of virtually any place or point on the map.

Those who live in a given place today may not be living there tomorrow, but they will still be alive; they will have simply changed dwellings.

So, "Where do you live?" is not an uncomplicated question.

You've heard many musings on what makes a house a home. You are aware of the distinction between a house and a household, a resident and a residence. (Keep on looking if you're on a college tour with your son or daughter and you visit a campus that calls its dormitories "resident halls.")

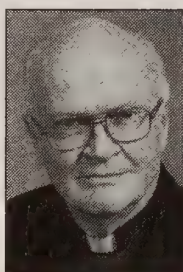
Well, the fellow who prefers to speak of where he dwells when asked where he lives also has a ready response whenever anyone inquires about his home.

"Home is where my heart is," he replies, "and my heart is now ...."

Circumstances will shape the

### Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
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completion of that reply, so will the identity of the questioner. Not everyone has a right, he says, to know where his heart is at a given moment, or to whom his heart belongs, what it values, to what it is committed.

"Home is where your heart is" is a beautifully compelling idea. If it triggers thoughts of places rather than persons, you have to wonder to what extent you are fully alive and engaged with other living beings.

Lingering regrets may try to direct you back to an earlier time, when you think about home, but that is not going to happen. You can't go back. You cannot up-end the hour glass or roll back the calendar.

Irreversible decisions may have separated you from persons and left you with memories of empty places that are now out of reach.

There's no way home — except through the heart.

Simple questions like, "Where are you from?" and "Where are you staying?" can open the door to reflection on your interior life and your most closely held values. Questions like that can be good for the soul.

Next time you hear someone call out, "Is anyone home?" remind yourself that home is where your heart is, and check to see who and what are there.

That's where you really live, isn't it?

## All the difference in the world

*Perinatal hospice option helps parents deal with poor prenatal diagnosis*

*Editor's note: This is part of a series on prenatal diagnosis.*

Counting the number of babies "carried to term" may seem an unusual benchmark for success unless you are familiar with a new kind of "crisis pregnancy" impacting abortion rates in the United States.

The crisis results from the detection of fetal defects that are being diagnosed earlier in pregnancy due to advances in prenatal screening technologies.

Sadly, early diagnosis does not necessarily offer parents the hope of treatment. Instead the focus shifts from the baby — for whom there may be no cure — to a clinical perspective that views the pregnancy as the condition requiring intervention.

Abortion is then offered by medical providers who see little reason to continue a pregnancy when the prognosis is poor. In approximately 80 percent of these pregnancies, parents choose abortion.

This past summer in Greenville, S.C., a new program for pregnant parents celebrated its first year with an unexpected milestone.

"I thought we might see five babies carried to term," said Tammy Tate, CEO of Carolina Perinatal Support Network (CPSN). "Having ultimately served the families of six times that many is quite a surprise."

CPSN is one of a handful of perinatal hospice programs established to serve the 6,000-10,000 couples for whom abortion is not an option. As an obstetrics nurse, Tate was aware of the service gap that existed for these parents. Through practical guidance, education and compassionate support, CPSN provides ongoing assistance to parents from diagnosis to birth and beyond.

"We work to ease the emotional suffering experienced by parents while helping them make meaningful plans to honor the lives of their babies no matter the length of those lives," said Tate.

Perinatal hospice care is well-received by parents carrying to term who are suddenly burdened by a lack

### Life Issues Forum

TRACY  
WINSOR  
GUEST COLUMNIST

of information and support. This is particularly difficult as the experience of the diagnosis is isolating, and the decision not to abort may leave parents feeling alienated from the health care system.

Parents also note the profound grief resulting from the loss of the normal pregnancy and healthy baby they had anticipated, and the importance of being able to consider questions of baby care in advance while anticipating both the joy and grief of birth.

The benefit of perinatal hospice has also been recognized in the Catholic community. The National Catholic Bioethics Center noted in a 2004 statement that such services are a source of psychological support that can ease the emotional distress associated with the diagnosis of a fetal defect. In addition, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops directed readers to an on-line hospice resource in a 2007 document addressing the issues of prenatal diagnosis and abortion.

Dr. Byron Calhoun, a maternal-fetal-medicine specialist, introduced the concept of perinatal hospice, believing the benefit of such programs extends beyond supporting just those who decide to carry to term on their own.

His experience has been that when offered a comprehensive program of support, parents will choose carrying to term over abortion. This is particularly true if the option of perinatal hospice is made clear at diagnosis when fear of suffering and sense of isolation may well color the decision to terminate.

In this way, perinatal hospice is providing a viable, pro-life alternative to abortion. Proof of that assertion lies in the difference between the five babies Tate expected and the 30 babies whose families ultimately received the supportive care of CPSN this year. In providing support to those for whom abortion was not an option, CPSN by its very existence asserted the sanctity of all human life, no matter how brief or how frail.

This year in Greenville, parents devastated by the news of a lethal prenatal diagnosis had an alternative to abortion, and for a couple dozen precious babies, that alternative made all the difference in the world.

*Winsor is the regional perinatal bereavement coordinator for Elizabeth Ministry International and a parishioner of St. Peter Church in Charlotte.*

*For more information regarding available support services, contact [elizabethministry@roadrunner.com](mailto:elizabethministry@roadrunner.com).*

## What's not 'crystal clear' about candidate's views?

Nancy Frazier O'Brien's article ("Candidate's stands on life cover more than abortion," Oct. 3) stated that "neither presidential candidate is crystal clear and consistent on these (life) issues."

But Sen. Barack Obama has been very clear, stating he is pro-choice, would only recommend pro-choice candidates for Supreme Court nominations, has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and would make preserving women's right under Roe v. Wade a priority as president.

He has criticized the Supreme Court decision that upheld a ban on partial-birth abortions, and recently proposed a new law that would wipe out state laws that have restricted abortions, such as parental notification.

I believe Sen. Obama has made his position crystal clear on the most important of life issues.

— John Martin  
Indian Trail

### Letter to the Editor

#### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Pastors and politics

*U.S. Catholic Church is under magnifying glass on tax-exempt status*

Should pastors endorse political candidates from the pulpit? No.

Should church bodies endorse candidates in elections? No.

Should churches speak out about the moral content of social issues? Yes.

Does the government have the authority to withdraw the tax exemption of a church that gets directly involved in electoral politics by endorsing a candidate? Yes.

You would think the answers to these questions would be obvious, but every four years they come up again.

At the end of September, some evangelical pastors nationwide violated the Internal Revenue Code and made public endorsements of presidential candidates or parties.

They contended that the IRS regulations that forbid electioneering by tax-exempt organizations violate their constitutional right to free speech. Their "protest" was organized by a group called the Alliance Defense Fund ([www.alliancedefensefund.org](http://www.alliancedefensefund.org)).

Some of the pastors endorsed Sen. John McCain. Similarly there have been pastors around the country who endorsed Sen. Barack Obama.

This question comes up nearly every presidential election cycle.

On one side, somebody challenges the right of religious groups to speak on social issues, seeking to muzzle the role of the churches in the formation of their members' consciences. The tax

exemption is the chief weapon.

On the other side are churches that take an active role in politics. They invite candidates to speak from their pulpits. They distribute "issue" literature in an implicit endorsement of a candidate. They use tax-exempt property to influence elections.

None of this takes place in a vacuum. On both sides there are so-called "watchdog" groups that pretend to neutrality but actually seek to use the tax exemption to their advantage. As the largest church in the United States, the Catholic Church is particularly under the magnifying glass on this issue.

The evangelical pastors who made the protest at the end of September don't want to pay the price of their tax exemption. They have a right to their opinion but they do not have the right to ask the tax payers to subsidize their opinion.

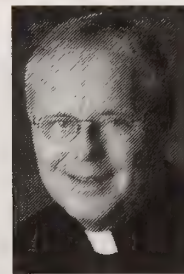
The government gives tax exemptions to many groups because they contribute to the "commonweal." Years ago, Chief Justice John Marshall famously said that the "power to tax is the power to destroy." The tax exemption allows exempt groups to flourish.

Churches are not the only groups exempted. Perhaps the best-known provision of the Internal Revenue Code is the 501(c)(3).

People who know nothing of tax regulations know this section of the law, which states that, "to be tax-exempt ... an organization must be organized

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY  
CNS COLUMNIST



and operated exclusively for exempt purposes" that are "charitable, religious, educational, scientific," even literary, to name a few.

But freedom from taxation comes at the price of electoral "neutrality." If you want to "play" in electoral politics, you ought to "pay" on April 15. If you want the government to exempt you from taxation, you should not ask the government to subsidize your electioneering.

Hardly a week goes by that someone exiting Mass does not ask me about my personal views on some political candidate. Sometimes the person comes up with some provocative statement designed to get me to react.

As an Irishman, I have opinions, of course. If you want them, we can go have a beer and talk them over. But as a pastor, I cannot endorse any candidate.

In recent years, too many people have played "capture the cross" in electoral politics. Some pastors have even run for office. They try to give the impression that Christianity has chosen sides in elections, that God has a candidate.

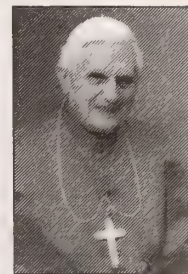
As Catholics, we promote the common good. As Catholic priests, we seek to form consciences.

But as leaders of tax-exempt organizations, we leave the electioneering to others.

## People need to learn about Jesus with their hearts, says pope

### The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People need to learn about Jesus not as a historical figure but as "our brother, the Lord who is among us today," Pope Benedict XVI said.

Biographical details and a chronology of events give people a superficial idea of who someone is; "only with the heart does one finally truly know a person," the pope said Oct. 8 at his weekly general audience.

Jesus' life, teachings, his death and resurrection are important things to discover not as things of a distant past but as "a reality of the living Jesus," the pope told around 25,000 people gathered for his audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope focused on St. Paul's knowledge of "the so-called historical Jesus" given that the saint never met Jesus during his earthly ministry.

He said St. Paul's understanding of Christ and his teachings came from the apostles and the early Christian community. St. Paul took this information to a new level by transposing Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God to what the kingdom meant after Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider Paul's relationship to the so-called "historical" Jesus.

In a celebrated passage, Paul states that "even though we once knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him in that way" (2 Cor 5:16). Here the Apostle does not claim that he knew Jesus during his earthly ministry, but rather that he once considered Jesus from a merely human standpoint.

Significantly, Paul's knowledge of Christ came from the preaching of the early church. Both his initial rejection of Jesus and — after his conversion on the road to Damascus — his preaching of the glorified Christ was based on the Gospel as proclaimed by the first Christian community.

In his Letters, Paul refers explicitly to the facts of Jesus' earthly life as well as to his teaching. His letters also reflect many central themes and images drawn from the preaching of Jesus.

Paul's teaching on the Jesus' identity as the Son of the Father, in whom we receive redemption and adoptive sonship, is clearly derived from the Lord's own experience and teaching.

In a word, Paul's knowledge of Jesus and his proclamation of the risen Lord as God's Son and our Savior, was grounded in the life and preaching of Jesus himself.

# Reject fear of the unknown

*Benefits of embracing beauty and trusting God*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), the Lutheran theologian and martyr who opposed the Nazi movement, wrote, "Nothing can make up for the absence of someone you love. ... The dearer and richer the memories, the more difficult the separation.

"But gratitude changes the pangs of memory into tranquil joy. The beauties of the past are borne, not as a thorn in the flesh, but as a precious gift."

Everyone goes through unbearable suffering of one kind or another. Many become disoriented, losing their bearings for while. If that ever happens to you, try to remember that you have a divine friend at your side. You are never alone.

The late Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, wrote: "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

"Nor do I really know myself. The fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. I hope that I will never do anything apart from you. And I know that if I do, you will lead me by the right road.

"Though I may seem lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Merton never mistook feelings of helplessness for actual hopelessness. He trusted God, even in the midst of confusion.

The Bible repeats "be not afraid" 365 times.

Jesus said, "Fear is useless; what you need is trust."

Whenever frightening thoughts cross your mind, reject them. Turn your mind toward the Lord, and count your blessings.

St. Francis de Sales tells us: "Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and everyday. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

"Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

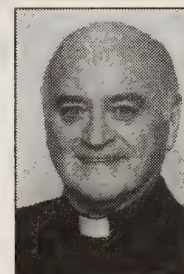
Reject fear of the unknown future. Even the elderly can change the pattern of negative thinking.

Bad habits can be confronted and uprooted with prayerful determination. Trust the Lord to do for you what you cannot yet do for yourself.

Eliminate anything that fosters fear. These thoughts are not from God. But if the upsetting thoughts continue, find a good doctor or therapist to guide you.

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR  
CNS COLUMNIST



Above all, trust in God's grace. The dark night of the soul is only temporary. One day the sun will come out and the snow will melt.

Also trust the past to God's mercy and the future to God providence. Look for God in the beauty of nature. Stay in the present moment, which is right before your eyes.

Wrote Thomas Kinkade: "Beauty enters your heart through all the senses, and beauty grows stronger when more than one of the senses is involved. ... Our joy can grow and flourish when fed a steady diet of beauty."

A sunset is God's way of saying "I love you." God awakens in you a desire to be one with him. Everything in nature awakens in us a hunger for God.

At a general audience in April of 2002, Pope John Paul II addressed the pilgrims with these words, "The need for God is a need that can be as physical as the need for food and water. Just as the arid land is dead until irrigated by rain, so the faithful yearn for God, in order to exist in joyful communion with him."



# The spiritual sounds of the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

CHARLOTTE — Spiritual and lively music highlighted the fourth annual diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 3-4, featuring singers and performers from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte and beyond.



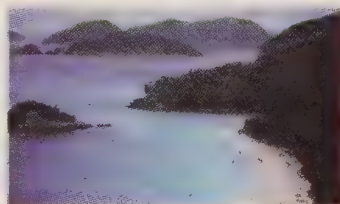
PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

Singers perform during the sacred choral music concert at the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 3.

Escape winter on a diocesan trip!  
Don't wait - over half full!

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Your 9-day experience with full-time tour guide includes these highlights:

- \* walk through the treetops on a canopy tour (or take the zip line!) through the **Monteverde Cloud Forest** - one of only four places in the world with such a spectacular ecosystem to offer incredible natural wonders!

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- \* exquisite flowers and lush, tropical trees line the journey to fascinating **Poas Volcano**; stay overnight in the shadow of the majestic **Arenal Volcano** and relax at the hot springs oasis

- \* thrill to the beautiful wildlife in one of the world's largest **butterfly gardens** - unbelievable colors and varieties right there with you!

- \* a local **coffee production facility** shows us how the potent Costa Rica coffee bean turns into the favorite beverage of millions!

- \* relax on the spectacular northwest Pacific coast - the **all-inclusive, tropical paradise resort** with breathtaking beaches and nearby marina awaits you, surrounded by expansive ocean views and lush greenery!

**All this plus more for only \$2,269 per person (double occupancy).**

Price includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte; air taxes, fees, surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full); hotels; transfers; most meals; full-time tour manager; local guides. Cancellation waiver/insurance (\$150 per person) is not included.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 - or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).



PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above left: Musicians perform during the Hispanic track at the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4. Above right: A violinist from Jamaica performs during the congress Oct. 4.



PHOTO BY KATIE MOORE

The Charlotte Catholic High School choir performs during the Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 4.





# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 17, 2008

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 43

## Perspectives

Life is not a choice; fostering  
a missionary spirit; fixing  
problems with faith

| PAGES 14-15

## The costs — and profits — of abortion

Former abortionist  
reveals industry  
secrets at maternity  
home banquet

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY  
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE—Abortion  
is a tremendous money-  
making scheme that exploits  
vulnerable women, according  
to a former abortionist.

"Women are sold  
abortions over the phone  
using a telemarketing script  
to overcome every possible  
objection," said Carol Everett.

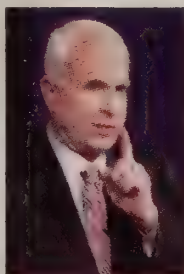
Everett, who once operated  
six abortion clinics in Texas and  
is now a pro-life activist, was  
the keynote speaker during the  
14th annual banquet benefiting  
Charlotte's Room at the Inn  
at the Charlotte Convention  
Center Oct. 9.

Room at the Inn is a

See ABORTION, page 4



—CNS PHOTO BY ERIK DE CASTRO, REUTERS



## WINNING IRAQ

Above: A U.S. soldier of 101st Airborne Division greets boys near  
a local government office in Samarra, Iraq, Sept. 22. More than  
130,000 U.S. military personnel will remain in Iraq when either  
Republican Sen. John McCain or Democratic Sen. Barack Obama  
takes the oath of office as America's 44th president Jan. 20, 2009.



## CAMPAIGN '08

Iraq War poses  
major challenges  
for next president

Candidates differ in  
approaches, attitudes

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is third in a  
series on the 2008 election.

WASHINGTON — The  
legacy of President George W.  
Bush will be framed primarily  
by one event: the ongoing war  
in Iraq.

At five and a half years  
and running, the Iraq War —  
portrayed by Bush as a vital front  
in what he has characterized  
as the war on terror — has left  
Americans divided and much of  
the world community looking  
beyond the United States for  
diplomatic leadership.

The war stands out for  
being the first whereby the

See CAMPAIGN, page 7



PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents pins recognizing the 25 years of service of  
Deacon Louis Pais, Deacon Vincent Shaw and Deacon Dennis O' Madigan during  
the deacons and wives annual retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in  
Hickory Oct. 10-12.

## A spirit-filled gathering

Service, virtues highlight annual retreat  
for permanent deacons and wives

BY DEACON GERALD  
POTKAY  
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Bishop  
Peter J. Jugis recently honored  
permanent deacons celebrating  
milestone anniversaries in  
service to the church.

Pins were awarded to  
the deacons celebrating 20,  
25 and 30 years of service  
during the annual retreat for  
deacons and their wives at the

Catholic Conference Center  
Oct. 10-12. Led by Father Edward  
Sheridan, a retired priest of the  
diocese, the retreat was part  
of the deacons' continuing  
education and spiritual  
enrichment program.

Among those honored were  
some of the first permanent  
deacons ordained for the

See DEACONS, page 5

## Inspiring generations

Women in Bible held  
wide range of roles  
throughout history

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's note: This is part of an  
ongoing series on the Bible.

WASHINGTON —  
Benedictine Sister Ruth  
Fox likes to tell stories about  
women. Not just any women,  
but women of the Bible.

See BIBLE, page 6

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##

### Culture Watch

Books on church history; the  
Bible in the movies, on TV

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### A day of life

Catholic college students take  
pro-life retreat

| PAGE 5

### Trials and tribulations

Catholics find faith during  
Wall Street upheaval

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SEWING SAINTS



CNS PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG, THE LEAVEN

Maria Rioux and costume-maker Debra Fuhrman stand with children dressed as various saints Sept. 25. This year, Fuhrman will make and ship approximately 1,500 saint costumes before Oct. 24, her cutoff date for rush orders. Halloween is Oct. 31.

## Seamstress's costumes of saints go marching out to customers

CUMMINGS, Kan. (CNS) — Debra Fuhrman is under the gun.

Barraged by orders arriving from Kansas, around the United States and even overseas, Fuhrman has been shipping out product as fast as she can. With All Saints Day just around the corner, you see, it's high time for the saints — or rather, their costumes — to go marching out.

Fuhrman runs a business in Cummings, population 580 or so, and as best as she can tell, it is the Catholic children's costume capital of the world.

That's quite an accomplishment for Fuhrman, a member of the First Christian Church of Atchison. Until just a few years ago, she didn't know the difference between St. Tarcisius and tartar sauce.

Fuhrman gives a lot of the credit for her success to her Catholic neighbor and friend, Maria Rioux, a member of St. Joseph Church in Nortonville.

Fuhrman began her costume career in 1999 with "princess style" dress-up clothes for her two daughters. When other parents began to ask her to make costumes for their kids, Fuhrman began a little bedroom-based business in 2002.

Initially, she only offered children's costumes of historical and literary figures. Then Rioux encouraged her to consider making saint costumes.

"I can't do that," said Fuhrman. "I'm Protestant. What do I know about the saints?"

But Rioux's fellow Catholic home-schoolers were looking for patterns for saint costumes for children. Those already on the market were mostly of the

gag type for adults — shoddy and vulgar. Parents hated them.

With Rioux's help and guidance, Fuhrman began making saint costumes in 2004, and the saints must be smiling on her, because business has been very good. Her first order — which she considered "huge" — was for 16 costumes.

This year, she'll make and ship approximately 1,500 saint costumes before Oct. 24, her cutoff date for rush orders.

"We could double that if I had enough seamstresses," said Fuhrman.

Those first years, and costumes, weren't easy. Starting with patterns for a Benedictine monk, a Franciscan friar and a Jesuit priest, Fuhrman sought both quality and authenticity. A nun's cowl and a bishop's miter, for example, gave her fits.

"I lost so much sleep over the miter," said Fuhrman. "It's very hard to do the middle section."

And the secret to making a good miter? "I'm not telling," Fuhrman said with a laugh.

About 90 percent of the costumes made are of saints, and the majority of those are bought for Catholic home-schoolers. Occasionally, the costumes of saints not often requested are replaced by those growing in popularity.

"If I get more than three requests, I call Maria," said Fuhrman. "People keep asking for Padre Pio. Should we add him? I'll ask. She'll say, 'Yes,' or 'Why don't we wait?'"

"Or I'll say that he's Franciscan, and we've already got that," said Rioux.

## Bishops criticize 'judicial activism' in ruling on same-sex marriage

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — The Connecticut Supreme Court's Oct. 10 decision permitting same-sex marriage in the state was "a terribly regrettable exercise in judicial activism," the state's Catholic bishops said.

The court "has chosen to ignore the wisdom of our elected officials, the will of the people, and historical social and religious traditions spanning thousands of years by imposing a social experiment upon the people of our state," the bishops added in an Oct. 10 statement.

In a 4-3 decision in *Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health*, the court majority said "the state's bar against same-sex marriage infringes on a fundamental right in violation of due process and discriminates on the basis of sex in violation of equal protection."

"We conclude that, in light of the history of pernicious discrimination faced by gay men and lesbians, and because the institution of marriage carries with it a status and significance that the

newly created classification of civil union does not embody, the segregation of heterosexual and homosexual couples into separate institutions constitutes a cognizable harm," said Justice Richard M. Palmer, writing for the majority.

"The state has failed to provide sufficient justification for excluding same-sex couples from the institution of marriage," said the 85-page majority opinion.

Each of the three dissenting justices wrote his or her own opinion, with Justice Peter Zarella criticizing "the majority's unsupported assumptions that ... the sole reason that marriage has been limited to one man and one woman is society's moral disapproval of or irrational animus toward gay persons."

The Catholic bishops called on the citizens of Connecticut to vote "yes" on the Nov. 4 referendum on whether to call a constitutional convention. The state constitution requires asking voters every 20 years if they want such a convention.

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

information on this topic, go online to [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and St. Elizabeth Church.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Elizabeth Ministry, in conjunction with the diocesan Respect Life Office, will be hosting "God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis" Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. The purpose of this conference is to help the Catholic community better encourage parents to carry to term after a poor prenatal diagnosis. Registration is required. For information, contact Tracy Winsor at (704) 543-4780 or e-mail at [ohboys@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ohboys@carolina.rr.com).

CHARLOTTE — A series of talks on "Understanding Your Late Life Choices" will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The first talk, "A Doctor's Viewpoint on our Aging Brain," will be presented by Charlotte neurologist, Dr. Mohammad Bolouri, Oct. 22. These talks are free and open to the public. To make reservations, call St. Gabriel Church at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, hosts "Learning and Voting the Common Good," a presentation by Father James Hug, in Biss Hall (beneath the church) Oct. 25, 9-11 a.m., with refreshments served at 8:30 a.m. Father Hug is executive director for the Center of Concern in Washington, D.C., a Catholic organization working in collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith networks to

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

BISCOE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at Our Lady of the Americas Church, 298 Farmers Market Rd., Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "parishes." For more information on this topic, go online to [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and Our Lady of the Americas Church.

### BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "parishes." For more

## THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Vatican bank official says assets not threatened by global crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican bank's assets have not been threatened by the global financial crisis, largely because it has avoided speculative investments, said an official of the bank.

"Our goal of not allowing a loss of capital to the religious institutions that entrust us with their resources remains fully achieved today," said Angelo Caloia, president of a supervisory council of the Vatican bank, known officially as the Institute for the Works of Religion.

He pointed out that the bank's exposure is limited because it does not operate as a lending institution, and its investments have always been conservative. In particular, he said, the bank has avoided investing in "derivatives," a type of higher-risk investment that is blamed for causing much of the current crisis.

Instead, Caloia said, the Vatican bank has made "clear, simple and ethically based" investments, avoiding

speculation and staying away from companies tied to things like exploitation of children or the arms trade.

"Our patrimony is solid and we don't have a shortage of liquidity. We've always been very prudent, I would dare to say conservative, in managing our resources. We've always invested defensively," he said.

Caloia said the current financial crisis, which has hit major banks especially hard, has been caused primarily by "behavior that has been improper to the point of fraudulency." The solution, he said, will require more controlled regulation of the financial industry.

The Vatican bank was established in 1942 and is used by Vatican agencies, church organizations, bishops and religious orders around the world. It offers currency exchange services and interest-bearing accounts. Like all banks, it has an investment portfolio, which is not public.

bring a prophetic voice for social and economic justice to a global context. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Barbara Dellinger at (704) 807-6125.

CHARLOTTE — All women of the diocese are invited to hear Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church, speak about the *Catholic Responsibilities Regarding Voting* at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 3, 10 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gayle Bell at gbell56@aol.com.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — A presentation on "The Catholic Church's Case for Comprehensive Immigration Reform" will take place in the Parish Life Center at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Antonio Cube, national director of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will present. For directions, go to [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org), click on "parishes." For more information on this topic, visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). This event is sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, Catholic Social Services and St. Paul the Apostle Church.

GREENSBORO — All men of the Triad area are invited to participate in a short study of Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical, "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), Tuesdays at St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., 6:30-7:30 a.m. On Oct. 21, the group will be discussing paragraphs 10-23. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas invite all Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte to participate in *White Ribbon Against Pornography Week*, Oct. 26-Nov. 2. The

Catholic Daughters request that participating parishioners wear a white ribbon to make people aware of the damage pornography — via the Internet, TV, movies, books and magazines — is causing in our society.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at Exodus Missionary Outreach Church, 1763 Highland Ave. NE, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. With the theme "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free," this celebration will explore how we can reach out with God's love to those behind bars. Guest speaker will be Deacon Scott Gilfillan from St. Joseph Church in Newton, who will speak about his experience in prison ministry. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The national "40 Days for Life" campaign will be held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or go online to [www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem](http://www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Pope canonizes four saints, calls for end to violence in Orissa state

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI canonized four new saints, including the first native-born saint from India, where Christians recently have come under attack from Hindu gangs.

After the two-hour liturgy in St. Peter's Square Oct. 12, the pope made a pointed appeal for an end to violence against India's Christian minority.

He spoke after declaring sainthood for St. Alphonsa Muttathupandathu, a nun from southwestern India who was known for her holiness during a lifetime of suffering. The other new saints included an Italian priest, a Swiss missionary sister and an Ecuadorean laywoman.

The pope said their lives of faith and sacrifice should inspire contemporary Christians in all walks of life.

The liturgy marked a special moment for Indian Catholics. Thousands of Indian pilgrims, including many nuns and priests, applauded and cheered as the brief biography of St. Alphonsa was read aloud. An Indian government delegation also was present.

After the liturgy, the pope called for an end to violence against Indian Christians, in the wake of attacks on church personnel and institutions.

"As the Christian faithful of India give thanks to God for their first native daughter

to be presented for public veneration, I wish to assure them of my prayers during this difficult time," he said.

The pope spoke in his homily about St. Alphonsa's life of extreme physical and spiritual suffering before her death.

"She wrote, 'I consider a day without suffering as a day lost.' May we imitate her in shouldering our own crosses so as to join her one day in paradise," he said.

The others canonized were:

— St. Narcisa de Jesus Martillo Moran, a 19th-century Ecuadorean known for her deep prayer and penitence.

— St. Gaetano Errico, an Italian priest who founded the Congregation of Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the 19th century. He was known for the many hours he spent in the confessional, and for seeking out the sick, the abandoned and the spiritually afflicted in his native area of Naples.

— Sister Maria Bernarda Butler, a Swiss nun who founded the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary, Help of Sinners.

With these canonizations, Pope Benedict has created 18 new saints in his pontificate of three and a half years. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, presided over the canonization of more than 450 new saints.

## Animal blessings



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Francis Cancro, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, blesses Lindsey Johnson's dog during the parish's blessing of the animals Oct. 5. The blessing was held the day after the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, known worldwide as the patron saint of animals, peace and the environment. The blessing of animals on St. Francis' feast day transcends denominational boundaries — Lutherans, Episcopalians and Presbyterians, among others, participate by inviting their congregants to bring in the animals in their care.

## DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 19 (5 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
Sacred Heart Church, Burnsville

Oct. 26 (2 p.m.)  
Wedding anniversaries Mass  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Oct. 27 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Oct. 28 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
St. Joseph Church, Bryson City



# Former abortionist reveals industry secrets at banquet

ABORTION, from page 1

Catholic maternity home that offers pregnancy assistance for unmarried pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn, in the Charlotte area.

Everett said she speaks to pro-life supporters to reveal the often unknown, inner workings of the abortion industry.

"I want you to know the other side of an abortion clinic, so you truly appreciate Room at the Inn," Everett told the audience.

"It is truly a unique, life-affirming ministry ... that physically saves lives," she said.

Everett's journey into the abortion industry began soon after Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion in 1973. She was under pressure from her husband and her doctor — an "abortion salesman," as she called him — to abort her pregnancy.

"Two weeks after Roe v. Wade, I was faced with a decision," she said. "As soon as I made it, I knew I made the wrong one. I knew I had killed my baby."

Her life quickly fell apart — she had an affair, started drinking and eventually left her husband.

In the early 1980s, as a single mother with two children, she found herself selling medical supplies for a business in Texas that turned out to be an abortion clinic. She was quickly swayed by the amount of money she could make by "selling" abortions.

"The so-called 'counselors' are paid by commissions on the number of abortions they bring in," said Everett.

They pretend to be the patient's friend, a confidant who has their supposed best interests at heart and will help them get rid of their "problem" before anyone finds out, said Everett.

"If a pregnancy test is positive, the woman is strong-armed into having a quick abortion before any other options can be considered," she said.

However, abortionists often perform "abortions" even if a woman's pregnancy test is negative, said Everett. The patient is given a sonogram — the only time a sonogram is used in an abortion clinic, said Everett — and the abortionists claim any "spot" in the image is a fetus.

Then the abortionist performs a mock abortion, scraping the woman's uterus in order to collect the payment. In the United States, the average cost of an abortion is \$500, said Everett.

She helped the clinic double its business and income, and she was soon asked to help open and turn a profit at other locations. She was helping the clinics perform approximately 800 abortions a month. "I made \$25 per abortion," she said. "I wanted to be a millionaire in a year's time."

She then met a business counselor who turned out to be a Christian preacher. Conversations with him planted doubts about the work she was doing.

"I literally fell to my knees in the

"The so-called 'counselors' are paid by commissions on the number of abortions they bring in."

— Carol Everett

abortion clinic. I said, 'Lord, if this is not where you want me, hit me over the head with a 2 x 4,'" said Everett.

That "2 x 4" struck, she said, when a local television news station's undercover report revealed her clinics were performing unnecessary abortions.

"I was the hammer. I made abortions happen, but something happened to me that day," said Everett.

Within the month, she left the abortion industry for good.

"I had incredible peace that I was not supposed to be in that abortion clinic," she said. "But I still struggled with a lot of things. Could I be forgiven for all that I had done?"

She felt — and still feels — remorse for taking the life of her own child. "I've struggled with my daughter's death. I named her Heidi, which means 'noble' but it also means 'hidden,'" she said.

The aborted babies are in heaven, Everett said, and they are all noble.

"When we get to heaven, they'll be waiting for us — not to accuse us, but to hold us," she said.

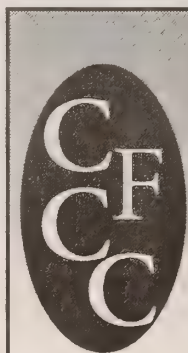
While the average cost of an abortion may be \$500, said Everett, the true cost of an abortion can never be measured.

"The real cost is the life of the baby, and the lives of both the mother and father," she said.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail [kemurray@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kemurray@charlottediocese.org).

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about Charlotte's Room at the Inn, visit [www.rait.org](http://www.rait.org).



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# A rosary of prayers



COURTESY PHOTO

First-grade students at St. Mark School in Huntersville pray during a living rosary at the school Oct. 2. Sixth-graders led the students in the prayers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from the parish faith formation program at Holy Spirit Church in Denver take part in a living rosary on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5. Held outside in a garden devoted to Mary, Mother of God, the rosary was led by parishioner Tony Fea, a member of the Knights of Columbus.



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## A Day with the Gospel of Mark

9 am – 4 pm

Thursday, November 20

OR

Saturday, November 22

**Fr. David Valtierra, C.O.**

The day will begin with an overview and outline of the next liturgical cycle: Mark (Cycle B). Prayer, noon Eucharist, lunch and shared readings are included.

**The same program is offered both days.**

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)





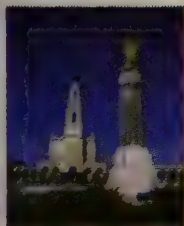
COURTESY PHOTO

Father Walter Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva, speaks to Catholic students from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee during a retreat Sept. 17.

**"The Catholic students at WCU plan to live according to their dignity, so they can be faithful witnesses ...."**

— Matthew Newsome

## Experience both FATIMA and LOURDES and more fascinating cities in PORTUGAL, FRANCE and SPAIN April 19-28, 2009



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- \* our visit to Nazare, this most picturesque and colorful fishing village, will show us the way of life so important to many Portuguese for hundreds of years
- \* **Alcobaca Monastery**, an absolutely massive architectural wonder which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989
- \* a ride through beautiful Spanish countryside takes us to Burgos in the heart of the Castile region – we'll visit this world-acclaimed 3rd largest church in Spain with its elegant spires rising to the sky!
- \* nestled in the green splendor of the Pyrenees in southern France, we'll experience the peace and serenity of Lourdes where the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette, the poor shepherd girl, 18 times in 1858
- \* travel through beautiful southern France to Carcassonne and learn about the intriguing history of this medieval walled city
- \* La Sagrada Familia – one of Spain's most popular attractions – waits for us with many, many more sites on our in-depth look at fascinating Barcelona

Masses at many special spiritual sites, plus so much to see – and even time for personal exploration, shopping or relaxation, too – all for only \$2,830 per person (double occupancy). Price includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte; air taxes, fees, surcharges (subject to increase until paid in full); hotels; transfers; most meals; full-time tour manager; local guides. Cancellation waiver/insurance (\$150 per person) is not included.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 – or e-mail [ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org](mailto:ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org).

## 'A Day of Life'

*Catholic college students explore church teachings on life issues*

CULLOWHEE — Catholic students from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee gathered recently to explore building a culture of life in America.

Thirteen students participated in "A Day of Life," a retreat focusing on the church's teachings on the dignity of human life, at a lake house in Cullowhee Sept. 27. The event, which featured several guest speakers, was organized and led by Matthew Newsome, Catholic campus minister at Western Carolina University.

Newsome focused on the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and explained the concept of natural law.

"The fact that our Catholic moral teachings are grounded in the natural law means that we can have an open and honest discourse about these moral issues with people who are of different faiths — or no faith at all," Newsome said. "Our morality is based on something that we all share in common — our human nature."

Father Walter Williams, pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva and chaplain for the college's Catholic student center, spoke to the students about the "culture of death" and how today's college students can combat it.

"There really is no such thing as a culture of death," he told them. "Rather, it is a dead culture. A dead culture is no culture at all. We need to work then to build a new culture — one of life."

Father Williams encouraged the students to help build an authentic culture based on the dignity of the human person.

"The highest place in heaven, closest to God, is not occupied by an angel but by a human woman, the Blessed Virgin

Mary," said Father Williams. "God himself has taken into his own being a human nature, through the Incarnation."

Dr. David Ramsey, a Catholic, shared his experiences as a pro-life physician. He spoke of the link between contraception and abortion, and of how these two issues stem from the same root — an anti-life mentality.

"Child abuse, out-of-wedlock children, STDs (sexually transmitted diseases), abortion, adultery, divorce, reports of spousal abuse — all have doubled or tripled since the contraceptive pill came on the market," said Ramsey.

Ramsey played a tape of fetal heart tones for the students and showed them a model of a fully-formed fetus at 9-and-a-half weeks old.

"This is what abortion proponents would call 'potential life,'" he said as students passed around the recognizably human model, complete with hands, fingers, toes and a face.

Students involved in the college's Catholic campus ministry are stepping up their pro-life efforts this year, with plans to offer a nonpartisan pro-life information table on campus prior to the upcoming election. Some students work with the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center's campus outreach office to be trained as student counselors to help those in crisis pregnancy situations.

Ramsey serves as medical director for the center.

"The Catholic students at WCU plan to live according to their dignity, so that they can be faithful witnesses to their fellow students to do the same," said Newsome.

## Service, virtues highlight retreat

DEACONS, from page 1

Diocese of Charlotte in May 1983. They received certificates of recognition from Bishop Jugis.

"I must say that being in the position of director, this has been the most blessed time in my life," said Deacon Louis Pais, director of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Charlotte, during the ceremony. Deacon Pais was recognized for 25 years of service as a deacon.

"The thing that has left the biggest impression on me is being able to see all the ministries of you men and your wives here in the Diocese of Charlotte, many of which are being done behind the scenes," he said.

As ordained ministers in the Catholic Church, permanent deacons may perform baptisms, witness marriages and assist in various liturgies. The permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married. However, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination.

The first permanent deacons were ordained to serve only in their parishes. In July 2003, the permanent diaconate

expanded its duties considerably by taking over the diocesan prison ministry program full time.

Many deacons visit prisons regularly to offer communion services, Bible studies and counseling to the incarcerated within the diocese.

"I challenge each of you who ministers here in the Diocese of Charlotte, to take your inspiration from the Gospel account of the washing of the feet," said Deacon Pais to the deacons and wives.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus washed the feet of the Twelve Apostles, demonstrating an extreme form of humility and love.

During the retreat, Father Sheridan spoke about vices and their corresponding virtues.

"This weekend was very appropriate for what we need at this time," said Ladis Zimmerle, wife of Deacon John Zimmerle at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville.

"I've been filled with the Holy Spirit. It has been very rewarding," she said.

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocese's permanent diaconate, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/deacons.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/deacons.html).



# Women in Bible held wide range of roles

BIBLE, from page 1

She talks about Shiphrah and Puah in Exodus, two women who put their lives at risk by defying the pharaoh's law of death in order to uphold God's law of life.

Then there's the prophet Huldah — one of few women or men called a prophet — who made history, as told in Chapter 22 of the Second Book of Kings, by verifying the authenticity of an ancient scroll discovered in the Temple.

And there's Phoebe, whom Paul refers to by the Greek word for deacon in his Letter to the Romans because of her service to the church of Cenchreae. (The New American Bible uses the word "minister" in place of the Greek "diakonis" because the concept of deacon had yet to evolve in the young church.)

Sister Fox, 72, said she tells these stories — and many others — because they are important for the faithful to hear, and especially because they are not included in the Lectionary used at Sunday Masses.

"I believe women have a very, very important role in Scripture and it's not recognized," Sister Fox said. "Women are often taken for granted but their role is so very important. I would hope it would be recognized by the church."

It's been about 20 years since Sister Fox wrote her widely circulated article, "Women in the Bible and the Lectionary." In it, she briefly recapped the stories of numerous women from the Old and New Testaments, sharing their inspiring examples of faith and leadership.

Her article was based on a lengthy study she conducted on the Lectionary, which found that the Mass readings in use since 1976 omitted or designated as optional numerous Scripture passages that refer to women's leadership roles. She also found that some of the passages about women that remained in the Lectionary reinforced what some consider to be more passive roles of women.

Today, Sister Fox is prioress of her community at Sacred Heart Monastery in Richardton, N.D., and still leads retreats about women in Scripture. "I come forth with the facts and not just opinions ... that can't be denied. And what people do with it is their responsibility," she said.

Sister Fox's work is one aspect in the burgeoning research field of women in Scripture. Interest in the topic has exploded since the 1970s, corresponding with the secular women's movement.

Dominican Sister Barbara Reid, professor of New Testament studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, said the field has opened new ways to look at Scripture by "holding up the lost stories of women."

Such work has spanned both the Old and New Testaments as scholars try to decipher the role of women in history and in ministry. Some women have been depicted as influential, being

counted on by early Jewish kings for their advice and viewpoints. Others have been acknowledged as disciples for their work in establishing the church in far-off places in the first and second centuries. Many more go unnamed and contribute in small ways to the modern understanding of Scripture.

Carol Meyers, professor of religion at Duke University in North Carolina and a scholar on women of the Old Testament, said biblical women can serve as role models for anyone today.

She is one of the principal authors of "Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament," which has become a widely used reference work. It contains more than 800 entries examining the women in Scripture, and includes prominent women such as Deborah, Esther and Mary Magdalene, as well as unnamed women and female imagery developed by Scripture authors.

"In terms of public roles and community roles ... there's 15 to 17 public roles depicted for women in the Old Testament," she explained. "It means that women were not all relegated to the household, that there are women with positions of authority in the community. We tend to forget about that and think about women who are subordinate and subservient and that's not necessarily the case."

Like Meyers, Sister Reid has studied the topic of women in Scripture — in her case the New Testament — for much of her career. She examines the role of women from the viewpoint of women's experiences.

"It's not about analyzing female characters but more about using lenses of feminist consciousness ... reading with the eyes, mind and hearts of women, with women's realities in the forefront," Sister Reid explained. "Women have always been interpreting the Bible. What's new is that women are starting to have each other's work to build on."

Sister Reid's work has focused on what the roles of women in Scripture say to women today. She said that while New Testament books do not tell the stories of women being called as the Twelve Apostles were, women were alongside Christ on his journey through Galilee and later to Jerusalem.

The Gospel of Luke tells of Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna accompanying Christ as he went "from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God."

After Christ's ascension, the first generations of the church were largely domestic in nature, meaning the faithful met and worshipped in someone's home, many times with a woman leading the gatherings, Sister Reid explained.

Paul's letters to emerging Christian communities and Luke's Acts of the Apostles mention several such women: Nympha (Col 4:15) and Prisca, or Priscilla, and her husband, Aquila (Acts 18:2-3 and Rom 16:3-5).

Such house churches were portrayed



CNS PHOTOS BY CROSIERS

Deborah, Mary Magdalene and Esther are depicted in stained-glass windows. Deborah was named a prophet and judge of Israel and is recognized as a mother of Israel. Mary Magdalene was a faithful disciple of Jesus and used her resources to support him and the apostles. Esther was a heroine who saved her people from annihilation.

to show the connection between faith and family life, which was the domain of women, said Sister Carolyn Osiek, Catholic professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

She said some women traveled, like Paul, as evangelists for Christ. But it was the house churches, she explained, where people formed bonds while learning the faith, providing hospitality for visiting

Christians, baptizing new believers and networking first-century style.

The women mentioned by Paul were among the most prominent and likely the most prosperous in their communities, said Sister Osiek, a member of Society of the Sacred Heart.

Nonetheless, their example of living faith-filled lives can serve to inspire women and men alike in the 21st-century church, she said.

## Cardinal: Bible Belt a 'frame of mind'

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Bible Belt refers geographically to parts of the southern United States, but it is also "a frame of mind" in which Bible passages and images are alive and relevant to life, said Texas Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

The cardinal addressed the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible Oct. 11, sharing stories of faith from his region and suggesting the Catholic Church draw up a "compendium for the reading and sharing of sacred Scripture."

He said the document should be addressed to the faithful, not experts, and should "highlight the rich and useful methods and approaches in the church, past and present, for reading, interpreting, praying and living the word of God."

The compendium would provide guidance to Catholics who read the Bible alone or in groups and would give them an understanding of the church's approach to the Scriptures, which is important especially for Catholics who "deal regularly with non-Catholic Bible study groups and individuals," he said.

Cardinal DiNardo told the synod he was speaking on "behalf of Catholics who live in the famous Bible Belt of the southern United States. But, though a location, the Bible Belt is a frame of mind also."

"There are surely issues and problems with this mindset," he said, "but it has kept alive a biblical imagination and vocabulary" as well as a sense of God still at work in the world.

Cardinal DiNardo told the synod about a Catholic woman whose home was destroyed by Hurricane Ike and a non-Catholic woman whose home was flooded.

He met the Catholic when he went to the cathedral to assess the damage. She noted that the statue of Mary was still on top of the cathedral and, quoting from the Gospel of Luke, she said, "Blessed is she among women. We will be okay."

An hour later he met the other woman who talked about the damage to her home, saying, "but 'the Lord drew me out of the miry clay,'" a line from Psalm 40.

"Both responses were deeply biblical and touching," the cardinal said. While some Americans would ridicule their faith and Bible quoting, he said, "they both displayed intelligence and humility. Their attitude reflected openness to the Holy Spirit and their quotations of the biblical texts were wise and prayerful."

Cardinal DiNardo said he hoped the synod would keep such people in mind in its deliberations, helping the faithful, correcting them when necessary, but especially supporting "their hope and their lived knowledge that God is active in the world."

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# Iraq War poses major challenges for next president

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

United States took pre-emptive action to head off what it considered a potential threat to its national security.

However, surveys show Americans are growing increasingly impatient with the war as the cost of remaining in Iraq soars to nearly \$560 billion and casualties mount.

The Web site [www.icasualties.org](http://www.icasualties.org) recorded 4,182 U.S. soldiers killed and another 30,634 injured as of Oct. 13. (The figures do not include Iraqi deaths or those of foreign military forces and private contractors.)

Even with the planned withdrawal of 8,000 troops within the next several weeks, more than 130,000 U.S. military personnel will remain in the country when either Republican Sen. John McCain or Democratic Sen. Barack Obama takes the oath of office as America's 44th president Jan. 20.

## Varying views

How the two major candidates address the war is indicative of the personal histories of each man.

Obama, who publicly opposed the war even before his election to the U.S. Senate in 2004, has pledged to seek a "diplomatic surge" to bring peace to the region.

McCain, the military hero who was tortured as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, adheres to a stay-the-course strategy, promising to eradicate Iraqi-based terrorism before he will consider reducing U.S. forces in the country.

Specifically, Obama has said he plans a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops, beginning almost immediately after taking office. His plan calls for

virtually all troops to be withdrawn by the summer of 2010, leaving a residual force to perform limited missions in support of the Iraqi government.

Obama has said gradual troop withdrawals would pressure the Iraqi leadership to move more rapidly to take responsibility for the country's security.

In contrast, McCain uses the language of his military background, promising to take whatever steps are necessary to fight terrorism and keep America safe. McCain's plan calls for reducing the U.S. military presence in Iraq only when Iraqi forces can safeguard the country.

Demonstrating his commitment to the war effort, the senator from Arizona said during a campaign stop in January that troops would stay in Iraq for 100 years if necessary.

Neither view matches exactly the stance of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which initially opposed military intervention and since 2006 has called for bipartisan cooperation to bring about a "responsible transition" in the oil-rich nation.

The bishops seek the return of U.S. troops as soon as possible, provided the Iraqis can govern their country in the wake of the war, explained Stephen Colecchi, director of the USCCB's Office of International Justice and Peace.

"The bishops don't see the war in Iraq primarily as a partisan issue," Colecchi told Catholic News Service. "They see it primarily as a human and moral issue. They don't support the extreme response of an immediate withdrawal nor the extreme response of an indefinite deployment (of troops). They're saying we have serious moral questions we have to deal with. We have to get out as soon as we possibly can, but we have to do it in a responsible way that minimizes loss of life and helps to



CNS PHOTO BY IBRAHIM SULTAN, REUTERS

An Iraqi girl looks at a U.S. soldier as he tries to tie the strap of her school bag. U.S. forces distributed the bags to pupils during the opening ceremony of a primary school after its renovation in Mahmudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 6.

rebuild the country of Iraq."

Along with stabilizing the country, the bishops say the needs of more than 2 million Iraqi refugees — many of them Christians who fled to Syria and Jordan — and another 2 million internally displaced Iraqis must be addressed.

"The U.S., because of its role as the occupying power, has a legal responsibility under international law and a moral responsibility to assist the Iraqi people in doing that," Colecchi said. "And the Iraqis themselves need to make difficult political decisions that will lead to reconciliation within their communities."

Obama's platform concurs with the bishops' assessment. No mention of refugees and displaced people can be found in McCain's platform.

## 'Complicated mix'

Catholic analysts say the situation in the Middle East is much broader than Iraq, and that whoever becomes president will find the perilous relationship between Israel and the Palestinians undermining any attempt to achieve peace in the region.

Iran's role in the insurgency in Iraq, Iran's nuclear program and the dangers posed by Islamic extremists also pose challenges for the U.S. role in the region.

"It's a complicated mix there," said Gerard Powers, director of policy studies at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"I think Obama would take a more regionwide approach, a more multilateral approach. McCain is more focused on the urgent need for security," she said.

Despite the candidates' current positions, Powers and Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, editor of *America* magazine and an expert in Middle East affairs, said with the changing political situation in Iraq — a gradually strengthening central government and declining violence — the positions of McCain and Obama appear to be inching closer together.

"I think the U.S. needs to abide by what an independent government of Iraq wants to do," Father Christiansen said. "I don't think the Iraqis want the U.S. to pull out entirely, but they may want more (withdrawals) than some of the reluctant

members of the military and the foreign policy establishment would like."

Father Christiansen said Obama's experience in community organizing, where negotiating is a valued skill, may help bring more partners to the table in the hope of achieving a regional peace more readily than the primarily military-based solution espoused by McCain.

The complexity of the issues will take patience and a commitment for a just solution for all parties, he said.

"But in addition to taking patience, it's going to take wise and just policy on the part of the U.S.," the Jesuit said. "I don't think we can presume we're the biggest and the best. What's happened, the situation in Georgia has indicated that just because we're the biggest, we can't think everyone is going to go along with what we want."

"You need a wise, just, generous policy that is very long-sighted," he added. "And for some time to come the U.S. military will be needed for world stability. The U.S. is going to need to do that but with a policy that uses both hands and that the hand holding the olive branch has to be out front."

Powers expressed concern, however, about McCain's "embrace of the Bush administration's pre-emptive war argument." If McCain holds fast to that view, it would dim the prospects for a regional peace accord, he said.

Whether Obama or McCain occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., rebuilding the country's credibility in diplomatic circles will be one of the most difficult challenges the next president faces, said Dave Robinson, executive director of Pax Christi USA.

"Our concern is the way this war has been waged. U.S. credibility has been so damaged. It's hard to imagine the U.S. will be able to broker the international engagement that will be necessary (to bring peace to Iraq)," he said.

He suggested that the 44th president must seek international cooperation, joining with the United Nations, the Arab League and the European Union to ensure peace for Iraq and its neighbors.

"That's core to the Catholic view," he said.

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## Room At The Inn of the Carolinas



Room At The Inn of the Carolinas, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

Room At The Inn of the Carolinas is a comprehensive program helping homeless, single, pregnant women and single mothers with children not only during their pregnancies but also after the birth of their children. By providing housing, food, clothing, in-house child care, transportation, case management, counseling and life skills education, we are able to help these young families thrive. Over the last decade, Room At The Inn of the Carolinas has spread to both Carolinas and operates in five counties and two dioceses. Our programs include:

- The Nussbaum Maternity Home located in Greensboro;
- The Amy Elizabeth Disney House located in Greensboro;
- The Backyard Ministry located in Kernersville;
- The Samaritan House located in Eden;
- And our newest collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, the Father Michael McGivney Maternity Home located in Bluffton.

Always faithful to Catholic teaching, Room At The Inn of the Carolinas is a response to the call of Christ to build a "Culture of Life" and seeks to make the mercy of Jesus real and present to some of those most in need of Him.

On any given night, twenty women and their children are provided residential services. Our maternity homes in both states admit homeless, pregnant women with or without previous children. Because we believe that education is the key to their success, we operate a unique program that provides housing and support services to our residents as they attend college on a full-time basis.

In November, we are pleased to invite you as our guest to our banquet to be held in Greensboro as we welcome Norma McCorvey and our own program graduates who will share their stories of how pro-life people reaching out in love have helped change their lives. Ms. McCorvey was the "Roe" in the Supreme Court decision, "Roe vs. Wade". There is no charge to attend but reservations are requested. If you want to help spread the Gospel of Life, you can also contribute by visiting our website at [www.RoomInn.Org](http://www.RoomInn.Org).

We appreciate your time as you read this report on our progress in building a "Culture of Life" here in the Carolinas. Together, we can continue to help some of the most vulnerable of our dioceses: homeless, pregnant women and their babies.

In Christ,

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Where

- ◆ 100% of pre-natal appointments
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- ◆ 100% of babies born had a mother
- ◆ Total nights of shelter provided
- ◆ Total nights of shelter provided
- ◆ Total meals provided to clients
- ◆ Transportation trips provided 1,480.

Through our collaboration with local churches and businesses, safe housing is provided through our Services Program.

These include Amy's House (Palm Beach), The Greater Greensboro Remodeling Project (Cherry Street United Methodist Church), the Brethren and the Father Michael McGivney Maternity Home.



Our newest program, The Father Michael McGivney Maternity Home in Bluffton, South Carolina.

91% of the clients 18 years of age and older increased their income.



# Building A "Culture of Life"



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ere kept.  
weights of 5.5 pounds or greater.  
e.  
res of 7 or more.

gnant clients: 2,990.  
ldren: 1,297.

3.  
h, self sufficiency and other appointments:

nes, church organizations, individuals  
or our Supportive Community Living

is Disney - Disney Construction and  
eil), The Back Yard Ministry Home  
e Samaritan House (First Church of  
ey Home (The Knights of Columbus).



aternity Home & Supportive Housing Services  
**Carolina**

97% of the maternity home graduates  
transitioned to permanent housing.

## Leah's Story

When I was homeless and pregnant, Room At The Inn of the Carolinas gave me a real home and a new family. Because of complications with my pregnancy, I was put on complete bed-rest, but the staff took good care of me.

After the birth of my son, Gabriel, and because of the excellent day care provided by Room At The Inn of the Carolinas, I was able to return to college. In May of 2006, I graduated with honors from Bennett College with my Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications.

Now, as a student at Savannah State University working on my MSW, my future plans are to give back to society by helping women and children.



**Supported Community Living Services provided in the Carolinas:**

2,014 nights of shelter to maternity home graduates attending college.  
2,063 nights of shelter were provided to their children.

100% of the mothers in the College Based Program obtained/remained in the safe housing provided by our Supported Community Living Services.

## Building a Culture of Life ... through Love

The Annual Campaign to raise the funding necessary to operate the maternity homes, subsidized housing, the emergency shelter, child development programs and other support programs for homeless pregnant women and single mothers with children throughout the Carolinas will kick off with our Annual Benefit Banquets this November.

In addition to the testimonial from graduates of our various programs, we are proud to announce that Ms. Norma McCorvey will be the keynote speaker at both the North Carolina and South Carolina Banquets. Ms. McCorvey will talk about how her life was changed by the mercy and love of Jesus that was shown to her over the years by Christians witnessing to the sanctity of life.

Ms. McCorvey was the Jane "Roe" of "Roe vs. Wade," the decision of the US Supreme Court that legalized abortion throughout all fifty states.



Ms. McCorvey's non-political message emphasizes how love builds a culture that respects life and how we can make a difference by reaching out to homeless, pregnant women in need.

**Please mark your calendars now!**

**In the Piedmont Triad:**  
**Thursday, November 6th, 2008**  
**6:30 PM at The Embassy Suites**  
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Norma McCorvey will draw a large audience. Please call our local office (336-996-3788) and reserve your table now as seating is limited.

Attendance at the banquet is free, but an invitation to provide financial support is given that night. Your help is needed to make this campaign a success!



# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Authors provide valuable volumes on church, from different angles

REVIEWED BY RACHELLE LINNER  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Boston College professor James O'Toole's considerable gifts as a historian and writer make "The Faithful: A History of Catholics in America" both a pleasure to read and an important contribution to American Catholic history.

O'Toole, whose earlier works include a biography of Boston's magisterial Cardinal William O'Connell, takes a different approach in this study. "The Faithful" tells the story of American Catholicism not through its leaders or institutions, but through the lens of "the men and women in the pews."

The result is a richly layered narrative that communicates a complex history while retaining its focus on the lived experience of Catholicism.

"For Catholics, though they are members of an institutional church, the underlying loyalty is to a way of seeing the world (both this one and the one that is believed to come after it) no less than to an ecclesiastical structure," he writes. "This vision requires nurturing through religious practice: sacraments, liturgy and prayer, both individual and communal."

O'Toole identifies six broad periods of American Catholic history: the priestless church of the pre-Revolutionary period, the early years of the republic, the immigrant church, the church of Catholic Action, of Vatican II, and, projecting into the future, of the 21st century.

O'Toole clarifies what was distinctive about each era's demographics, devotional practices, relationships between laypeople and clergy, and attitudes toward the papacy and American political and cultural life.

The book's strength is its incarnational sensibility, the way O'Toole illustrates historical and theological ideas with specificity, narrating often poignant anecdotes with clarity, respect and a refreshing lack of polemics.

This is not to say that O'Toole is timid. He is impatient with people who long to return to a supposed golden age of Catholic life. He presents evidence that the "disaffection" of the laity and anger over clericalism in the aftermath of the sexual abuse crisis is radically different from earlier conflicts between laypeople and priests, a situation that is complicated by the "generational split ... in the ranks of the clergy."

"The American Catholic Church has become a church of the middle class, even the upper-middle class, and a church of the poor and the working class, all at the same time. In its earlier immigrant eras it was a church mostly of the 'bottom,' without much representation at the 'top' of society," writes O'Toole.

"During its present era, it is both. There is a danger in this. Catholicism in

America may move toward becoming two churches, or perhaps three: one for the well-off and largely white; one for working-class 'white ethnics'; and a third for poorer people of color. Such an outcome, however, can be avoided. Catholicism has always been, in the often-cited words of James Joyce, a matter of 'here comes everybody.'"

O'Toole hopes that "understanding the successive ages of their church may open (Catholics) to accepting change that will continue whether they want it to or not." This wonderful book enhances confidence in the future because it demonstrates the resilience, fidelity and creativity of the faithful.

Father Richard McBrien, a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, has written a comprehensive and useful one-volume study of ecclesiology, "the theological study of the church ... as a mystery, or sacrament."

"The Church: The Evolution of Catholicism," designed primarily for an academic setting, is also suitable for private study. Father McBrien is a skillful teacher, able to explain theological concepts, history and personalities in accessible language.

Father McBrien's most comprehensive treatment is of the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council, which "retrieved much of the ancient church's more dialogical stance toward the world and its emphasis on its communal, participatory life."

Father McBrien offers a cogent reading of "Lumen Gentium" (the document that focuses on internal church matters) and "Gaudium et Spes" (which addresses the relationship of the church to the world).

Most helpfully, Father McBrien explains the ongoing conflict about whether the council was a reform of, or a rupture with, previous teachings.

The contentious debates about how to interpret the council have a direct relationship to controversial topics in post-Vatican II ecclesiology, including the nature of the church as a communion, the sacraments, authority in the church, the reception of doctrine, ordained and nonordained ministry, and ecclesiologies proposed by women and minorities.

Father McBrien provides a balanced explanation of these disputes, but his reputation as a polarizing figure in the church may result in the book being unfairly characterized by those who assail his liberal reputation.

That would be unfortunate, because this is a balanced resource that can serve the church's pastoral and intellectual life.

Linner, a freelance writer, lives in Boston.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS, OCT. 26, 2007

### Oct. 26, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Exodus 22:20-26  
Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10  
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

### Treatment of others related to view of ourselves

BY SHARON K. PERKINS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My sister-in-law is a professional genealogist — a family history researcher — and she helps people trace their roots and learn more about their heritage by gleaning information about their forebears.

About 20 years ago, I became fascinated enough by her work to begin our own family research. Examining birth and death records, strolling through cemeteries, interviewing elders and rummaging through dusty archives taught me a lot about my ancestors and the incredible hardships they endured as immigrants to this country.

The dates and names of history came alive as I connected them to the stories of real people and their relationships with one another. And although I am a product of a different time and place, I also see how my character traits aren't all that different from theirs. By understanding them, I better understand myself.

Today's selections from Scripture remind us that our treatment of others is closely related to the way we view ourselves. In the first reading, Yahweh makes a convincing case for Israel's merciful treatment of the alien, the widow and the orphan by appealing to Israel's own history in Egypt as mistreated and marginalized people.

In the Gospel, Jesus declares the next to love of God, love of neighbor the greatest commandment — and that one's love of self is the measure with which one loves others.

By reflecting upon the way I would want to be treated, and by remembering my own personal experiences of being isolated, alienated, misunderstood and in need, I can more easily dissolve the barriers that stand between "me" and "them."

By extending love and kindness to others, I open the door to experiencing God's merciful love toward me.

In an election year when so many issues of social justice are thrown into sharp relief, and when the nation's distribution of resources is often a topic of heated debate, perhaps it is helpful to remember who we are — and whose we are — by finding time to retreat from the clamor, remembering our own grace-filled moments, and regarding others with the same kindness with which God regards us.

#### Questions:

When did you ever feel isolated or "marginalized," and how were you treated? How can you as a voting citizen exercise your responsibility with justice and mercy?

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19-25

**Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21; **Monday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Ephesians 3:2-12, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday (St. Anthony Mary Claret)**, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday**, Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9.

### Scripture for the week of October 26 - November 1

**Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**, Exodus 22:20-26, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40; **Monday**, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday (Sts. Simon and Jude)**, Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; **Wednesday**, Ephesians 6:1-9, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday**, Ephesians 6:10-20, Luke 13:31-35; **Friday**, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (All Saints)**, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12.

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# Can't wait for the book? See the Bible at the movies

BY HARRY FORBES AND  
JOHN MULDERIG  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — It's no secret that the Bible has long offered filmmakers a wealth of rich source material.

The stories contained within this cornerstone of Judeo-Christian faith and pillar of Western literature provide an apparently irresistible mix of saints and sinners to those rapacious Tinseltown moguls always on the lookout for crowd pleasers in the public domain.

In his 1997 "Jesus at the Movies," W. Barnes Tatum points out that within three years of the invention of cinema there were as many versions of the Passion narrative committed to film. The Crucifixion also figures in D.W. Griffith's 1916 epic, "Intolerance."

The life of Jesus has been recounted innumerable times, the earliest major version being "King of Kings." That 1927 silent was the work of master biblical epic-maker Cecil B. DeMille, though it was Nicholas Ray who helmed the 1961 remake with Jeffrey Hunter's blue-eyed matinee-idol Christ.

Both Old and New Testaments continued to provide rich fodder through the transition to sound, with DeMille again leading the charge with such

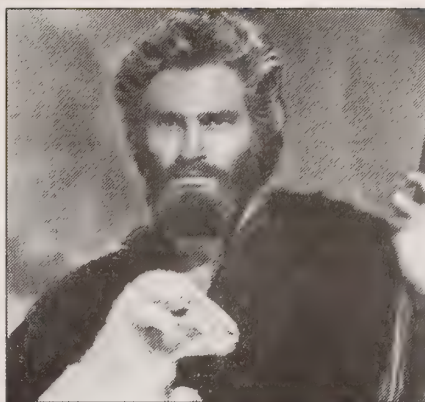
simultaneously reverential and racy fare as "The Sign of the Cross" (1932).

The stately, picture-postcard "The Greatest Story Ever Told" in 1965 featured a host of unlikely Hollywood stars in cameo roles: John Wayne as a centurion, Jose Ferrer as Herod and Sidney Poitier as Simon of Cyrene, to name a few, and Ingmar Bergman-star Max Von Sydow as an imposing and reverential Savior.

After these epic excesses, director Pier Paolo Pasolini's no-frills rendering, "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," was widely acclaimed as the definitive telling of the story — though Mel Gibson's 2004 box-office champ, "The Passion of the Christ," was the most detailed account of Our Lord's final earthly day.

The year 1973 saw two musical incarnations of the Jesus story — both adapted from the stage. In Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar" and Stephen Schwartz's "Godspell," the narrative was filtered through a rock star and hippie sensibility, respectively.

Christ's birth received a picturesque retelling in 2006's "The Nativity Story," though there was some consternation when star Keisha Castle-Hughes, who portrayed Mary, became the more usual



CNS PHOTO BY ABC

Charlton Heston stars as Moses in "The Ten Commandments."

kind of unwed mother in real life.

In terms of Old Testament adaptations, the prize goes to "The Ten Commandments" — DeMille's 1956 remake of his 1923 silent — which never fails to garner whopping ratings in its annual TV outing. After Charlton Heston's recent death, it was his portrayal of Moses that dominated all the obituaries.

John Huston's somewhat ponderous "The Bible" (1966) — an anthology that covered creation through the story of Abraham — was a noble attempt to dramatize the earliest passages of Genesis. But Steve Carell's 2007 "Evan Almighty," with the star as a modern-day Noah, arguably trumped the earlier movie's flood story.

Pious, often lengthy epics like DeMille's 1949 "Samson and Delilah," 1959 "Solomon and Sheba" and 1960

"The Story of Ruth" continued to mine the Hebrew Scriptures with entertaining but less artful results.

Two popular scripturally themed 19th-century novels — Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz's "Quo Vadis" and Lew Wallace's "Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ" — have received multiple screen treatments dating back to the silent era. The former, which charts the activities of St. Peter in the early days of the church, was especially well-served in its 1951 MGM version.

The lavish 1925 silent version of "Ben-Hur" with Ramon Novarro still impresses with its evocative use of tinting and spectacular chariot race, but William Wyler's 1959 remake with Charlton Heston was heralded as superior, picking up a then-unprecedented 11 Oscars, including one for best picture.

Other stories that intertwined fictional, biblical and historical events were adaptations of Lloyd Douglas' "The Robe" (1953) and its even more kitschy 1954 sequel, "Demetrius and the Gladiators," as well as 1962's "Barabbas."

Television picked up the biblical mantle early on, with Gian Carlo Menotti's Nativity-themed opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a holiday staple, starting in 1951.

Made-for-TV biblical movies — "Peter and Paul" (1981), "A.D." (1985), "Joseph" (1995), "Moses" (1995), and "David" (1997), among them — are too plentiful for discussion here, but let it be said that Franco Zeffirelli's "Jesus of Nazareth" (1977) stands high in the pantheon of quality Gospel adaptations.

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More than 100,000 expectant couples each year receive the devastating news of a poor prenatal diagnosis (PPD). It may be the detection of a fetal heart defect, kidneys that are too small for gestation, or evidence of spina bifida or Down Syndrome, but whatever the specifics, shocked and broken-hearted parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated. With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying to term, 80% of these pregnancies end in abortion.

### God's Children, God's Blessing: A Community-Based Response to Poor Prenatal Diagnosis

Friday, October 24th – 9 AM - 3 PM

Elizabeth Ministry, in conjunction with the Diocesan Respect Life Office, is hosting a conference to increase awareness regarding this "new kind of crisis pregnancy" and to improve outreach to encourage parents to carry to term.

**Morning program:** information from speakers and a parent panel

**Afternoon program:** three concurrent roundtable sessions focusing on the development of perinatal hospice and medical resource support services, and improving the Catholic response to the diagnosis of Down Syndrome

A light lunch will be served.

**Location:** 1st Floor Conference Room, Diocesan Pastoral Center,  
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte.

**Reservations are required. 704-370-3228.**

Parking available across Church Street from the Pastoral Center.

**Directions:**

[www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html](http://www.charlottediocese.org/contactus.html).

**Info:** Tracy Winsor at 704.543.4780 or  
[elizabethministry@roadrunner.com](mailto:elizabethministry@roadrunner.com).





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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

# Visiting Venice



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of travelers taking part in a diocesan trip to experience the sights and culture of Italy Sept. 14-24 is pictured at St. Mark's Square in Venice. While in Venice, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrated Mass for the group in a private chapel in St. Mark's Basilica, the cathedral of Venice. The next diocesan trip is to Costa Rica Feb. 4-12, 2009. (See page 16.)

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR – HISPANIC SERVICES

Full-time Program Director of Hispanic Services is needed for the Piedmont Triad Regional Office of Catholic Social Services. Four-year degree in human services field and two years' experience in social services setting are required. Must be fluent in English and Spanish (verbal and written). Should have experience in grant writing and administration, public speaking, budget development and management, and social service delivery to diverse populations. Must have the skills necessary to direct and supervise staff and volunteers. Must have the ability to travel to sites in Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point. To apply, send resumes to [dcbullard@charlottediocese.org](mailto:dcbullard@charlottediocese.org) before October 24th.

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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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# School fans



COURTESY PHOTO

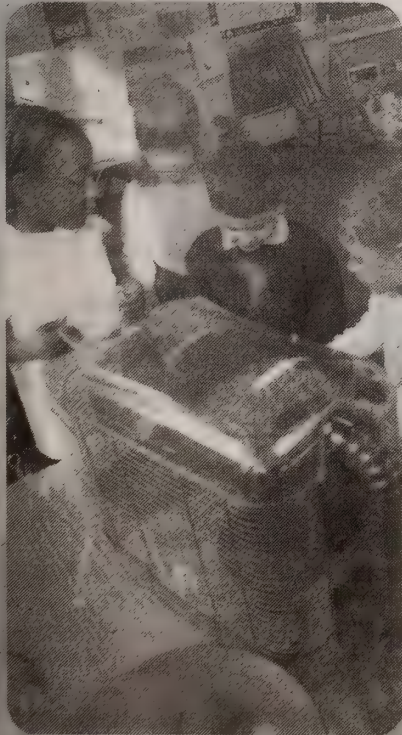
Fourth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem raise their hands to the question “Who likes school?” posed by senior wide receiver D.J. Boldin of the Wake Forest University Demon Deacons football team. Boldin visited the class Oct. 2 as the special guest of student Brett Knorr, who gave a report on a book about football. Boldin spoke about the importance of education for everyone, including athletes.

# All about apples



COURTESY PHOTO

First-graders from St. Michael School in Gastonia choose apples during a class trip to Windy Hill Orchard and Cider Mill in York, S.C., Sept. 23. The trip was to celebrate the Sept. 26 birthday of Johnny Appleseed, a pioneer who introduced apples to Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The students learned about Appleseed and how apple cider is made, took a hayride and navigated a sunflower maze, and made a scarecrow, which they named Michael and brought back to the school to share with their fellow students.



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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Crisis in the economy

Competence, conscience and faith needed to fix problems

Few people think of it this way, but we live in a faith-based economy. Not religious faith, to be sure, but faith nonetheless.

Religious language without religious meaning has dominated the headlines in recent weeks. "Confidence in Financial Markets Plummets," we read. Notice that "con" is English for "cum," the Latin preposition meaning "with," and "fides" is Latin for "faith." So con-fidence means "with faith."

Whenever confidence in markets takes a hike, faith has slipped away before it.

The credit markets are frozen, business analysts warn. Well "credit" derives from the Latin "credo," "I believe," and there again, when credit stops flowing, faith has preceded lending into the deep freeze.

Banks stop lending to other banks — and to business or individual borrowers — because confidence in their ability to repay has vanished.

Interesting, isn't it, to recall that when a company was formed in Boston some years ago to manage other people's financial assets, the founders decided to call it "Fidelity."

You'll find "trust," "providence" and other terms from the vocabulary of religious faith sprinkled throughout business directories listing banks, insurance and mortgage companies.

Religious faith would have you entrust yourself to God; secular faith involves mutual trust between buyer and seller, lender and borrower in the marketplace.

There are many markets in the world of finance. Best known, perhaps, is the stock market, but that's not where the problem lies today.

To the extent that speculation displaces investment, and greed drives decisions to buy or sell, there will be speculative bubbles in the stock market and cause for genuine concern. Indeed, stock market fluctuations signal stress in the nation's economic nervous system.

But our current problems relate chiefly to the credit markets and have their underlying causes in overpriced real estate and the subprime mortgage loans foisted upon willing but unqualified borrowers by greedy and profit-seeking lenders.

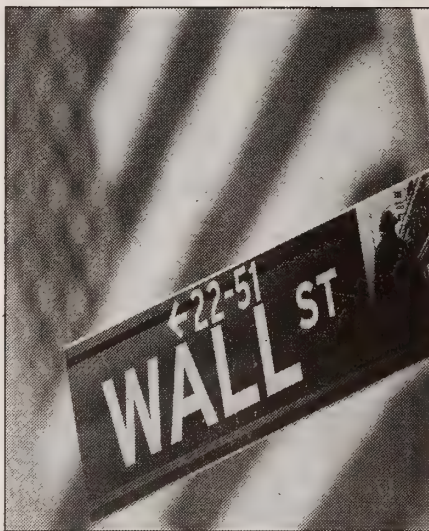
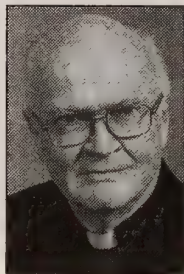
As the whole world knows, all this led to a legislative crisis and executive leadership challenge in our national government.

Neither Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson nor President George Bush is familiar, I suspect, with a classic principle of Catholic social teaching known as the "principle of subsidiarity."

This principle is designed to keep government in its place. In essence, it

### Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER  
WILLIAM J.  
BYRON  
CNS COLUMNIST



CNS PHOTO BY LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

says that no decision should be taken to a higher level of organization that can be taken as efficiently and effectively at a lower level.

This principle was articulated by Pope Pius XI in 1931 in "Quadragesimo Anno," marking the 40th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum."

Although they may never have heard of it, both Secretary Paulson and President Bush did, however, use the language of subsidiarity when they argued in September that the federal government had to come to the rescue because the problem was "too big" to be handled efficiently and effectively at any other level in our economic system.

Only government, what some critics scornfully call "big government," was up to the job. The president and treasury secretary were right. The Senate immediately agreed and the House of Representatives eventually came around to seeing the light.

This is not socialism any more than the New Deal was socialism. Much repair work remains to be done. The tradition of Catholic social thought can help.

Those responsible for fixing our problems must have competence (knowledge of economics and finance) and conscience (ethical principles).

Faith in themselves will help. Faith in God is not to be overlooked. Ideology at either extreme of the political spectrum will only get in the way.

## Life is not a choice

Children should be given opportunities to live

Editor's note: This is the last in a series on prenatal diagnosis.

The British Broadcasting Corporation produces many comedy series that are shown on American TV. One of those comedies, "Keeping Up Appearances," is televised on PBS on Saturday evenings.

There is a character who is never seen nor heard, but exists by way of supposed telephone conversations between himself and his mother. The character's name is "Sheridan." Hopefully his character is not based upon a real life character by the same name.

There is, however, another "Sheridan" who is not fictional at all, and she in fact is a 3-year-old girl who nearly did not make it into this life.

A couple in one of my former parishes are the proud parents of Sheridan. Both mother and father converted to the Catholic Church in different years and were eventually married.

The woman was in her late 40s when she and her husband learned she was pregnant. It was a surprise, but a happy one indeed.

In preparing for the birth of their child, the couple visited their doctor to get advice for the months ahead. That office visit turned into a very different kind of surprise.

The advice involved having an abortion. Perhaps it was based upon the age of the mother to be, or because of some testing upon the child and mother. Whatever the specifics, their unborn child was given a poor prognosis.

The couple told the doctor that they could not follow his advice because of their faith and belief in the value of life. Months later, a beautiful little baby was delivered into the world and was named Sheridan.

I was flattered and proud in the choice of this name, but also and more importantly because the couple had chosen life for the child instead of death.

Now getting ready for her third birthday, Sheridan is a vivacious, healthy and beautiful little girl. She is alive today because of a faith and a trust in God's providence, and the adherence of her parents to the principle of life.

Recently I ran into a similar situation involving the same advice — a different

### Life Issues Forum

FATHER  
EDWARD  
SHERIDAN  
GUEST COLUMNIST



doctor gave another expectant couple the advice to abort.

This couple works in the health care profession and knew what questions to ask. Their decision from the very beginning was that no matter what might be predicted, their baby would be born and not aborted.

Again, the result was the delivery of a gorgeous, healthy and wonderful baby.

Both couples had planned not to abort but instead to give their babies the wonderful opportunity to live. No matter what, both couples were ready to face any difficulty or challenge that might be presented to them.

But how many other couples or individuals either do not have a belief in life or do not know the right questions to ask? How many others would take the advice of the professionals and snuff out the life of another human being?

Life would not be the choice, and the heartache of abortion would haunt them forever.

As we read in Scriptures: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you" (Jeremiah 1, 5). God knows us intimately and loves us beyond our wildest imaginations.

In light of that, whose advice should be followed — the professional's or the Lord's?

Ultimately, the answer is found in Scriptures: "I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life" (Deut. 30, 19).

Father Sheridan is a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte.

For more information regarding prenatal diagnosis or available support services, contact [elizabethministry@roadrunner.com](mailto:elizabethministry@roadrunner.com).

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Fostering a missionary spirit in children

As parents, we teach our kids to go, love, serve

With World Mission Sunday around the corner, Oct. 19, let's look at how parents foster a missionary spirit in their children.

In fact, we parents can't be accused of not fostering a missionary spirit in our kids. ("Missionary," coming from the Latin "mitto," "mittere," "misi," "missus," meaning "to send.")

As our kids grow up, one of the most frequent commands they hear from us "Go!"

"Go get ready for bed."

"Go set the table."

"Go say you're sorry."

"Go do your homework."

"Go outside and play."

"Go to your room! Now! Go!"

"You want more money? Go get a job this summer."

Seeing the big picture, we moms and dads know that our little dears are here," but now it's time for them to move "there."

And while they're "there," they should brush their teeth and put on their pajamas. Or assist a sibling.

Or apologize for misbehavior. Or finish that school assignment that's due tomorrow.

Or get some fresh air and exercise. Or just settle down and be in a time out."

Or come to appreciate the fact that money doesn't grow on trees.

(Yes, you promised yourself you'd never tell your kids that money doesn't grow on trees, but there you are telling them just that. And if you want to do something nice for your own parents, let your mom and dad know that you told your children about money and trees. That'll make their day.)

Why are parents so fond of "Go!"?

It's part of our job. Our duty. Our responsibility. We know from experience that after our children have heard it for many years they're more likely to say it to themselves as they get older.

Maturity lets a person spot "here" and "there" and recognize there are some things he or she should be doing "there."

In high school it might mean going over and talking to the new kid who seems to be floundering or the classmate who has a hard time making friends.

In college it could be getting up and going to class even if that class begins at (yawn) 9 a.m.

On the job, in a marriage, as a parent, at the parish and, of course, at the end of Mass: "Go. Love. Serve."

As Catholics, each of us is a "multiple missionary." Called. Sent — as a son or daughter, a brother or

## Your Family

BILL AND  
MONICA  
DODDS

CNS COLUMNISTS



sister, a friend, a classmate, a neighbor, a workmate, an employer, a spouse or single person, a priest or religious, a parent or grandparent, a retiree and on and on.

And in every setting that we find ourselves or move ourselves into over the years, it's our heavenly Father who sees the infinite picture and tells us to go. To love. And to serve.

And speaking of parents and missionaries, the mother and father of St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) are scheduled to be beatified on World Mission Sunday, Oct. 19.

Therese (along with St. Francis Xavier, 1506-1552) is the patron of foreign missions, even though she was a cloistered Carmelite nun.

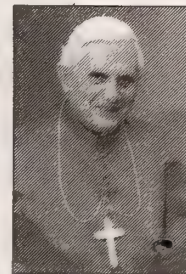
You can read more about Therese and Francis at [www.xaviermissionaries.org](http://www.xaviermissionaries.org), and about Therese's parents at [www.sttherese.com](http://www.sttherese.com).

*Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine.*

## Pope says God, not people, created the church

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church is not a club founded by people with a common interest; it is a living body convoked and created by God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

It is through the proclamation of the living Christ that "God comes to all peoples and reunites them as one people of God," the pope said Oct. 15 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square. The pope focused on St. Paul's teachings on the church and its meaning.

The Greek word "ekklesia," which is translated as assembly and church in English, was used in the Old Testament to mean an assembly of the people of Israel summoned or called upon by God, the pope said.

In his writings, St. Paul used the term to mean "the new community of believers in Christ" and "the new convocation of all peoples by God and before God," the pope said. St. Paul realized "the God of Israel, through Christ, came to the people ... and became the God of all peoples."

Different languages and cultures could not separate the people of God; "everyone was called in their diversity to become part of the one people of God, in the church of God, in Christ," said the pope. This was the essence of St. Paul's evangelical mission — to "embed the community of believers in Christ," he said.

For St. Paul, the pope said, church meant both an assembly of God's people in a particular place, city or home, and it also meant "all the church in its entirety." Each local church is in itself a reflection or "realization of God's one church."

St. Paul also formulated the concept of the church as the body of Christ, said the pope. Each individual Christian, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, is an integral part that is necessary for the life and functioning of the body as a whole. And the church is not just a gathering of individuals but "truly becomes the body of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist where everyone receives his body and we truly become his body," he said.

He said in this way St. Paul shows people that the church does not belong to a particular person or group but is precisely the body of Christ, "the church of God, God's field, God's building."

God is no longer confined to sacred places, the pope said. "God does not live in buildings made of stone; rather God's presence in the world is in the living community of believers," he said.

Pope Benedict called on Christians to remember "we are temples of God in the world, places where God truly lives, and we are at the same time a community, a family of God."

# Yes or no? Is that your final answer?

Doing God's will means following through on good intentions

In the Gospel of St. Matthew (Ch. 21), Jesus tells us of a man who asked his two sons to go to his vineyard. One said yes, the other said no.

Were those their final answers? They were not.

So although "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" was an invention of British television in 1998, apparently the Jewish people were playing a similar game 2,000 years ago.

But our Christian journey has nothing to do with such a game. The parable of the Gospel has a story beyond the story: There was a struggle between "yes" and "no" and that struggle is still going on.

Jesus Christ invites us to mean what we say and to say what we mean. The struggle between "yes" and "no" has been recorded throughout the Bible; for instance, the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8:25-28) gives us an example of a "yes" changed into a "no" and a "no" changed into a "yes."

The two sons mentioned in Matthew's Gospel were both wrong

and Jesus was not really praising anyone. Rather, Jesus' parable sets before us two types of people.

First, those who profess one thing and practice another — their promises do not match their actions.

Second, those who are better than they sound — they seem not to be interested in religion, but they really are and they live true Christian lives.

The challenge of the Gospel is to remind us that this world is full of these "yes people" and "no people."

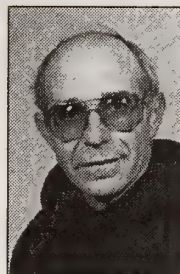
And the question for us is: "What is our final answer to God's call to holiness?"

St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Augustine were "no people," as we have learned from their early lives, but they had the courage to become "yes people" later on and have become heroes.

To make this drastic change from "no" to "yes," a process must take place: The process of repentance, which is not simply wishing to be good, but actually

## Guest Column

CAPUCHIN  
FATHER JOHN  
C. AURILIA  
GUEST COLUMNIST



being good. I heard hell is full of good intentions, and nobody ever went to heaven with good intentions only.

Our country has recently witnessed some tragic events, such as devastating hurricanes and the financial meltdown. All this comes down to one simple issue: The world is full of uncertainties, so why don't we make God our rescue plan?

After the disaster of Hurricane Ike, some brave souls gathered together in the nearly deserted cathedral in Galveston, Texas, where Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston said, "This calls us in times of great distress to have patience and kindness with one another."

In those moments of catastrophe and destruction, there was a tiny light of hope — an impromptu baptism in one of the shelters. Praise the Lord! And say "yes" to him.

*Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*





CNS PHOTO BY BRENDAN McDERMID, REUTERS

A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Oct. 2. Many Catholics who work on Wall Street and are trying to cope with the current upheaval in all sectors of the financial markets by finding strength in their faith and through Legatus, an organization of "ambassadors of Christ in the marketplace."

## Trials and tribulations

*Legatus members find faith helps them cope with Wall Street upheaval*

BY ANGELO STAGNARO  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Many Catholics who work on Wall Street and are trying to cope with the current upheaval in all sectors of the financial markets seem to be finding strength in their faith and the relationships they have made through Legatus, an organization of "ambassadors of Christ in the marketplace."

Catholics "involved in the financial sector" are as vulnerable to "fluctuations in the economy as anyone else," said Daniel Schreck, coordinator for the Manhattan chapter of Legatus. "From what I have seen, I do think the Catholic faith has given them a sense of peace even in these turbulent times"

"Due to the personal relationships, which are the foundation of any Legatus chapter, members have a support system at their disposal," he continued, adding, "Bottom line — Legatus gives these business executives the friendships and support necessary to confront life's ups and downs."

Legatus — Latin for ambassador — is an organization of Catholic business leaders. It was created by Tom Monahan, founder of Domino's Pizza, to give Catholic CEOs an opportunity to bring their faith into their business and professional lives.

Membership is open to men and women. There are more than 60 chapters in the United States, Canada, Ireland and Poland. Members are expected to spread the faith through good example, good deeds and high ethical standards.

Members of the Manhattan chapter talked about the financial crisis at their most recent meeting, said Schreck.

Monthly meetings and regional and national conventions offer members opportunities "to connect with people of common interests and concerns," he said, adding that he expected the country's economic crisis to continue to come up in discussions among members.

"The best support anyone can be given (to get through it) is the support of

Christ through his church," he said.

"Through the rock-solid foundation of the sacraments — and primarily the Mass and confession — Legatus offers its members the most fundamental and practical means to become good Catholics and effective ambassadors in the marketplace," he said.

Legatus chapters around the country are independent of the local diocese but maintain a good relationship with the bishop, according to the organization. Non-Catholics are welcome at Legatus functions.

Rod McCaughey and his wife Betsy Irwin-McCaughey, belong to Legatus Manhattan and to St. David the King Church in West Windsor, N.J. McCaughey is the CEO of Residential Lending Services. Irwin-McCaughey is chief operation-risk officer of the Federal Reserve Bank.

"I find solace in my spirituality," McCaughey explained. "My faith helps me with the trials and tribulations of being in business. Frankly, I don't understand how someone can be in this business without faith, without a moral grounding. Faith is not just for bad times like this, but for every day, even the good times."

He said he leads his life and business "by the golden rule."

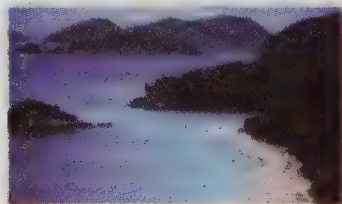
"Whenever people stray far from this key rule, it never bodes well for society. It becomes a free-for-all. Greed punishes itself," McCaughey said. "People become a means to an end rather than an end in and of itself as it should be."

When asked how her faith in Christ translates to Wall Street, Irwin-McCaughey said, "My faith in people is an extension of my faith in God. Legatus helps ensure fellowship among the members, which encourages a better more ethical marketplace."

She said at the organization's monthly meetings members pray the rosary, go to confession and attend Mass. They also have a dinner, "usually with a relevant Catholic speaker who comes in to talk about some aspect of the theology and its importance to business ethics," she said.

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OCTOBER 24, 2008

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 17 No 44

## Perspectives

Catholic teaching and voting;  
finding peace of mind during  
turbulent times

| PAGES 14-15

## CAMPAIGN '08

### Where are the presidential candidates on education issues?

Catholic educators  
hope Catholic schools  
get attention, assistance

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This is the  
fourth in a series on the  
2008 election.*

WASHINGTON — Even  
though the economy and the  
war in Iraq often take the front  
seat in presidential campaign  
discussions, occasionally the  
two major parties' candidates  
get the chance to outline their  
plans for the preschool-to-  
college set.

Their educational agendas,  
emerging in speeches,  
party platforms and the  
candidates' campaign Web  
sites, reveal similarities and

See CAMPAIGN, page 9

## Parish honored for stewardship

Members of diocese  
attend conference

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

CHICAGO — A  
Greensboro parish was  
recognized by the International  
Catholic Stewardship Council  
for outstanding efforts in the  
area of stewardship.

St. Pius X Church received  
honorable mention in the  
competition for the council's

See AWARD, page 4



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

Michelangelo Merisi painted the "Deposition From the Cross" sometime between 1600 and 1604. The painting, housed at the Vatican Museums, shows the apostle John and Nicodemus laying Jesus on the anointing slab before burying him in the tomb. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Clopas are also shown.

## Raising a spiritual fire

Annual retreat explores role of laity,  
discipleship in faith

BY KATHLEEN HEALY  
SCHMIEDER  
CORRESPONDENT

CANDLER — Voices  
raised in song and prayer rang  
out during a recent retreat held  
at a mountain church.

Approximately 300 people  
attended Fire in the Mountains  
at St. Joan of Arc Church in  
Candler Oct. 18. Participants

ranged in age from teenagers to  
senior citizens.

Fire in the Mountains  
is a one-day annual retreat  
sponsored by the Diocese  
of Charlotte's Asheville and  
Smoky Mountain vicariates  
and Office of Faith Formation.

See FIRE, page 5



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

A choir performs during the Fire in the Mountains retreat at St. Joan of Arc Church  
in Candler Oct. 18.

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## Culture Watch

Local author signs book; some  
surprises in film on pope

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## In Memoriam

Glenmary Father Bond  
remembered for missionary spirit

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## Economic justice

1986 economic pastoral letter  
revisited during meltdown

| PAGE 16



# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SPARING OVER THE SEPULCHER



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Franciscan Brother Christophe watches from above as an Easter Mass is celebrated in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem March 23. The church is built on the site believed to be the burial place of Jesus. A report published in the Israeli daily Haaretz Oct. 7 said a monastery on the church roof is in danger of collapse, but disputes between the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church have delayed repairs.

## Franciscan calls monastery roof dispute in Holy Land nothing new

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A report saying that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Deir al-Sultan monastery on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is in danger of collapse is just another manifestation of a long-standing dispute, said a Franciscan friar.

"This is an old, long-standing issue; a long-standing property dispute" between the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church, said Father Athanasius Macora, who monitors the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

"I don't think the danger is imminent but there is a problem which needs to be dealt with," said Father Macora.

He noted that the latest engineering report was initiated by the Ethiopian church, which is eager to have repairs made.

Parts of the report were published in the Israeli daily Haaretz Oct. 7. The article called the complex "a danger to human life."

The monastery, made up of two chapels, an open courtyard, four service and storage rooms, and a series of tiny mud-hut rooms inhabited by Ethiopian monks, is reminiscent of a small African village. All agree it is in poor shape.

However, while the Ethiopian Orthodox clergy inhabit the rooftop —

often without access to water, electricity or heating in the winter — the Coptic church claims ownership of the area. The two churches have not managed to reach an agreement that would permit the renovations to move ahead.

Father Macora, who is also responsible for monitoring the Status Quo agreement at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the Franciscans, said the confrontation is a "classic dispute over property."

"If there were real danger I am sure the (Israeli) government would take an immediate position," he said.

The Status Quo is an agreement that regulates jurisdiction of and access to key Christian sites in Jerusalem for Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian communities. Among those sites is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where tradition holds that Jesus was buried.

In the meantime, Yaakov Salameh, head of the non-Jewish Department of the Israel Ministry of the Interior, said the Israeli government has offered to pay for and carry out the work but cannot move forward with any plan until the two churches reach an agreement.

"Each one of these churches has a country behind it and a wrong move could cause an international issue," said Salameh. "The situation has reached a difficult level."

## Economy no excuse to delay solving health care crisis, CHA head says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nation's current economic crisis must not deter efforts to achieve health care coverage for the 47 million uninsured Americans, the president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association told a New York audience Oct. 20.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity, delivered the third annual lecture in Catholic health care ethics at St. Catherine of Siena Church in New York.

The lecture and the annual Mass for the health care professions that preceded it are sponsored by the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York.

"We can continue to do bailouts, bridge loans, interest cuts and other prop-ups, but we will not have a renewed and vibrant economy without enacting health reform that covers everyone with a reasonable, basic package," she said.

"It doesn't matter whether your priority is the stock market or the poor

or anywhere in between," Sister Carol Keehan. "We need effective and efficient health reform to help all of us."

The Catholic leader said it is "utterly incompatible with our pro-life agenda" that 9 million U.S. children are among the uninsured.

"What child doesn't deserve health care?" she asked. "What could possibly justify not giving a child health care?"

Sister Keehan cited a number of recent studies showing that only 7 percent of Americans "feel financially prepared for their future health needs" and that a quarter of cancer patients deplete all or most of their savings to pay for their care.

"When it comes to health care reform, the common good is at its best," she said. "We take care of not only the poor, the vulnerable, but ourselves best when we create a system that recognizes the dignity and worth of every single person."

## Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit [www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn](http://www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn).

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon Street, hosts "Learning and Voting the Common Good," a presentation by Father James Hug, in Biss Hall (beneath the church) Oct. 25, 9-11 a.m., with refreshments served at 8:30 a.m. Father James Hug is executive director for the Center of Concern in Washington, D.C., a Catholic organization working in collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith networks to bring a prophetic voice for social and economic justice to a global context. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Barbara Dellinger at (704) 807-6125.

CHARLOTTE — All women of the diocese are invited to hear Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church, speak about "Catholic Responsibilities Regarding Voting" at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gayle Bell at [gbell56@aol.com](mailto:gbell56@aol.com).

CHARLOTTE — In observance of All Souls Day, a special Mass for the deceased will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.,

on Sunday, Nov. 2. The names of those who have died this past year will be read at the 12:30 Mass, which will include special music. The names of those who have died will also be printed in the parish bulletin. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A series of talks, "Understanding Your Late Life Choices," will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The next talk, "A Lawyer's View — Making Your Money Last," will be Nov. 5. These talks are free and open to the public. To make reservations, call St. Gabriel Church at (704) 364-5431. For more information call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., will host "Sacred Intimacy: An Ignatian Retreat for Women" Nov. 8. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., retreat starts at 9 a.m. Consider setting aside some personal time for a morning of reflection. There is no cost to attend the event and parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. To register, call the church office at (704) 332-2901 or e-mail [retreat4women@gmail.com](mailto:retreat4women@gmail.com).

CHARLOTTE — A Monday morning Adult Spirituality series takes place once a month at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. The next talk, "The Mystery of the Church: Encouraging the Age of the Laity," will be held Nov. 10. The gathering will begin with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the presentation and discussion of the topic at 10 a.m. In the afternoon, there will be a homily preparation series for priests, deacons, catechists and anyone interested in sharing insights on the Sunday Scriptures of the month. The afternoon series will begin with bag lunch at 12 p.m. followed by chant mid-day prayer at 12:45 p.m. and homily preparation at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934.

CHARLOTTE — A novena of prayerful eucharistic adoration will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 26 following the 12:30 p.m. Mass and continue for nine days, ending Nov. 3 with Benediction at 7 p.m. During the novena, everyone is invited to

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## FROM THE VATICAN

## Science is risky when overtaken by desire to play God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Scientific research poses risks for humans when it is overtaken by profit-seeking or the desire to play God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope said science alone cannot provide ethical principles and for that reason needs philosophy and theology to help guide it and guard it from risks.

He made the remarks Oct. 16 in an address to participants in a Rome conference on Pope John Paul II's 1998 encyclical, "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason").

Pope Benedict said his predecessor's encyclical rightly aimed at defending the strength of reason and its capacity to reach the truth.

In recent times, he said, scientific research has tended more toward discovering the secrets of nature than finding ultimate truths. In turn, this desire to know nature has been "transformed

into the will to reproduce it," he said.

While the church does not fear the progress made by science and technology, it recognizes that such advances are not always directed toward the good of the human being.

"Easy profit or, worse yet, the arrogance of substituting the Creator, are sometimes a determining factor," he said. This is a form of pride that can be dangerous for the human race, he said.

"Philosophy and theology become, in this context, indispensable aids ... so that science does not proceed alone down an ambiguous path, full of the unexpected and not without risk," he said.

He said the church's position does not mean limiting scientific research or blocking its progress, but rather being vigilant so that faith and reason both maintain a sense of responsibility regarding science.

join in prayerful discernment of their upcoming vote. Perpetual adoration will be interrupted only by Mass. This is not a time for campaigning or discussion, just private adoration and prayer. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 334-2283.

## GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All men of the Triad area are invited to participate in a short study of Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical, "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), Tuesdays at St. Joseph's House at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. On Oct. 28, the group will be discussing paragraphs 24-31. This event is sponsored by Regnum Christi. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas invite all Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte to participate in *White Ribbon Against Pornography Week*, Oct. 26-Nov. 2. The Catholic Daughters request that participating parishioners wear a white ribbon to make people aware of the damage pornography — via the Internet, TV, movies, books and magazines — is causing in society.

GREENSBORO — A *Men's Evening of Reflection* will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Nov. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. This month's theme is "Never, Never, Ever Quit" and will feature a reflection on the virtue of perseverance in the lives of men who are husbands, fathers, workers and apostles. Pizza and refreshments will be served in the library at 6:30 p.m., followed by the talk in the church from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact John Endredy at (336) 449-3656.

GREENSBORO — In keeping with the special Pauline year as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, a special dramatic presentation entitled "St. Paul: His Story" will be presented by Paulist Father James DiLuzio, a missionary, actor and singer, at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. Admittance is free. Father DiLuzio works out of New York City, traveling throughout the country with this powerful presentation on the life and work of St. Paul. For more information, contact Jeannine Martin at (336) 294-4696, extension 225.

## HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at Exodus Missionary Outreach Church, 1763 Highland Ave. NE, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. This celebration will explore how we can reach out with God's love to those behind bars with the theme "God's Wisdom Set's Us Free." Guest speaker will be Deacon Scott Gilfillan from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton. He will speak about his experience in prison ministry. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

## WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Starting in January, Holy Family in Clemmons is hosting a new *Homeschool Enrichment Program* for Catholic homeschooling families. The program will allow Catholic families to come together for the rosary, liturgy and other activities. Enrichment classes are free and are available for students in pre-kindergarten through middle school. For more information, call Katie Knickrehm at 336-996-2643 or go online to [www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com](http://www.holyfamilyhomeschoolenrichment.com).

WINSTON-SALEM — The national "40 Days for Life" campaign is being held Sept. 24 through Nov. 2. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 3000 Maplewood Ave. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day during the 40 days. For more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558 or Toni Buckler at (336) 782-6062, or go online to the Web site [www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem](http://www.40daysforlife.com/winstonsalem).

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org) or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Vatican: Stop pressuring pope on Pope Pius XII's beatification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has asked those supporting and opposing the beatification of Pope Pius XII to stop pressuring Pope Benedict XVI on the issue.

The Vatican statement came after the latest public clash over whether Pope Pius did enough to help Jews during World War II.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, one of the promoters of Pope Pius' sainthood cause, said in an interview Oct. 18 that Pope Benedict could not possibly travel to Israel until curators of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem removed a photo caption stating that Pope Pius did nothing to condemn the Nazis and their slaughter of the Jews.

Father Gumpel said the caption was "an obvious historical falsification" and that as long as it remained, a papal visit to Israel "would be a scandal for Catholics."

But the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, reiterated the Vatican's objections to the Yad Vashem display, but said it was not a decisive obstacle to a papal trip.

Pope Benedict wants to travel to the Holy Land, but for now nothing has been planned, the spokesman said.

Father Lombardi emphasized that Pope Benedict has not signed the decree

of heroic virtues of Pope Pius, the next step necessary for his sainthood cause to advance.

"That is the subject of study and reflection on (the pope's) part, and in this situation it is not appropriate to exercise pressure on him in one direction or the other," Father Lombardi said.

In recent months, many Catholic experts have expressed their strong hope that the sainthood cause for Pope Pius would be moved forward, after the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes completed its documentation work and unanimously recommended beatification.

At the same time, Jewish groups have reiterated their strong opposition to beatification of Pope Pius, saying it would set back Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Vatican and other church officials, supported by some Jewish experts, have made recent highly publicized efforts to defend Pope Pius and his wartime record, saying that his behind-the-scenes efforts saved thousands of Jewish lives.

They have said Pope Pius was ultimately responsible for establishing a clandestine network of safe houses for people escaping Nazi persecution, utilizing the church's religious orders, communities, convents and seminaries — and even the pope's own summer residence outside Rome.

## Cryptic conditions



CNS PHOTO BY CHERYL RAVELO, REUTERS

Residents take a bath inside a cemetery in Manila, Philippines, Oct. 21. Many poor urban dwellers make their homes in public cemeteries, converting abandoned tombs and mausoleums into houses. The local government plans to move out the hundreds of people who live in the cemeteries before the feast of All Souls, a day of remembrance for the dead when Catholics visit the graves of their relatives.

## Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 28 (7 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
St. Joseph Church, Bryson City

Oct. 30 (6 p.m.)  
Friends of Seminarians Dinner  
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Nov. 1 (12 p.m.)  
Sacrament of confirmation  
Divine Redeemer, Boonville

Nov. 4 (11 a.m.)  
Presbyteral Council meeting  
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

## CORRECTIONS

In an Oct. 17 story, Deacon Louis Pais was reported as celebrating 25 years as a permanent deacon. It is actually 30 years.

In a Sept. 26 story, it was reported the Diocese of Charlotte purchased the land for St. Bernadette Mission in Linville. It was actually the congregation who purchased the land.

The Catholic News & Herald regrets the errors.



## St. Pius X Church recognized for stewardship efforts

AWARD, from page 1

Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Award, an award presented to the parish that best exemplifies an all-round approach to stewardship. The award was presented at the council's annual conference in Chicago Oct. 12-15.

The council was founded in 1962, through the patronage of Cardinal Joseph Ritter with the goal of promoting the concept of Christian stewardship.

This year, more than 1,200 people including bishops, pastors and parish leaders from at least 23 different countries attended the four-day conference; among them were parishioners from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and St. Paul the Apostle and St. Pius X churches in Greensboro.

"The application process for the Murphy award was a great way for us to review what has been working with our stewardship efforts and that which needed to be improved upon," said Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church.

In terms of the criteria for the award, the parish has to have shown a long-term commitment to stewardship and excellence in every aspect of stewardship, according to Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Gaddy credits the efforts of the pastoral staff and parish leadership team for supporting and encouraging stewardship as a way of life at St. Pius X Church. She also attributed much of the parish's stewardship success to the guidance of Msgr. Marcaccio, who "lives and preaches the message of stewardship in his parish," she said.

The parish, which consists of approximately 1,222 families, has assembled a stewardship strategic planning committee to look at the effectiveness of past stewardship efforts and set goals for the future, according to Pat Spivey, pastoral associate.

"The pastoral staff is really on fire and has a tremendous vision about where the parish can go in embracing stewardship as a way of life," said Gaddy.

Spivey said the conference offered practical ideas for increasing parish participation in stewardship by offering new approaches to publicity and new ways of exhibiting hospitality.

"I gained an appreciation for how St. Pius X parish is as a stewardship community and how it has developed over the years," said Anne Knapke, assistant principal of St. Pius X School and a member of the parish Youth Stewards in Action Committee. She said she plans to use what she learned at the conference to help her students grow in their appreciation for stewardship.

Knapke said the committee is working to increase communication among the youths of the parish, particularly by bridging the gap between those attending Catholic school and those attending public or private, non-Catholic schools.

"Each of us has a talent," said Knapke, "And without every person in our parish community, we would not be the community that we are."

Participants at this year's conference were asked to look at stewardship as a new way of parish life. The theme, "Evangelization and Stewardship in the Spirit of St. Paul," highlighted the concept of an evangelizing spirit that is present in every parishioner and in every dimension of the Catholic parish.

Throughout the conference, participants were reminded of the fervent way that St. Paul reached out to the early church by promoting evangelization and stewardship.

There was something for everyone at this year's conference, according to Gaddy.

"The speakers were inspiring and challenging, regardless of whether you were just getting into stewardship or you have been doing it for a long time," said Gaddy. "No matter where your parish is on its stewardship journey, you can learn something new."

## Rallying for the rosary



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants of the 65th semi-annual Rosary Rally — including first communicants, a Knight of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas — are pictured in St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Oct. 12. The event included recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, was the homilist.



COURTESY PHOTO

Children take part in a rosary chain during a Rosary Fiesta held at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 18. The fiesta was part of a Filipino ministry event co-sponsored by five Marian groups to celebrate Mary and the rosary during October. Each child represented a bead in the rosary and led the group in that bead's prayer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis talks with pro-life advocates praying in front of an abortion clinic in Charlotte Oct. 16. Bishop Jugis joined the group in praying the rosary for the unborn. The vigil was part of the "40 Days for Life" campaign, running Sept. 24-Nov. 2, to raise awareness to pro-life issues and end abortion.



COURTESY PHOTO

At left: Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro take part in a living rosary outside Our Lady of Grace Church Oct. 8. Students leading the prayers were "connected" to one another by a chain made of tulle and held flowers to represent the different beads of the rosary.

## Local Knights of Columbus council receives international recognition

MORGANTON — Knights of Columbus Father William T. McShea Council 9579 of Morganton has been named a Columbian Award winner for the 2007-08 fraternal year.

The announcement was made by the Knights' international headquarters in New Haven, Conn. John Gouldie, state deputy of the N.C. state council, presented the engraved plaque to Council 9579 at a special ceremony Oct. 13.

The award is presented for excellence in sponsorship of programs that serve families, church, youths and community as well as council members.

"Receiving this award is quite an honor. We are very pleased with this accomplishment," said Grand Knight John Lefebvre of Council 9579.

"The dedication of the principles and aims of the order shown by your officers and members is exemplified

by the high standard of excellence you have achieved," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in a statement to Council 9579.

"At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward the enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead," said Anderson.

"May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the church, your community and the order," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization with nearly 1.7 million members worldwide. In 2007, the Knights completed more than 68 million hours of volunteer service and donated \$144.9 million to charitable and benevolent causes.



"We are called to be examples of Catholic faith."

— Susan Muto



PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLARAWO

Susan Muto talks during Fire in the Mountains at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler Oct. 18.

## Annual retreat explores role of laity, discipleship

FIRE, from page 1

Featured speakers for this year's retreat were Susan Muto, author and co-founder of Epiphany Association, a resource center for postgraduate study in formative spirituality in Pennsylvania; and Capuchin Franciscan Father Roberto Martinez from Puerto Rico.

During her English-language talk, themed "Becoming Spiritually Mature," Muto said it was "the era of the laity," who, from the time of their first Communion, are called to transform the world into a "house of God."

"We are called to in-depth spiritual formation ... we are called to be examples of Catholic faith," she said.

Furthering the spiritual life of the laity requires study, and participation in retreats and classes, said Muto.

She encouraged also the study of those who have already walked in the

ways of Christ.

"It is so important to read the classical spiritual masters of the church," said Muto.

During his Spanish-language talk, themed "Called to be Disciples," Father Martinez said he hoped to share his faith and encourage the Hispanic community to grow in theirs.

"Often the community is here without family," said Father Martinez. "They are alone, afraid of persecution. Church is a place to hold onto something."

Faith can bring rewards, but often requires sacrifice, he said.

"To be a Christian in the early church was a big commitment and it was counter-cultural," he said.

"Sacrifice can bring great joy," said Father Martinez. "The paradox includes joy you would never experience until you take up the cross. We need to remember that so we don't compromise."

Father Martinez noted the differences in how he is perceived when he wears his cassock as opposed to regular clothes. He admitted it is sometimes easier to appear in public without such a clear statement of his Catholic faith apparent to the world.

"It is sometimes in things like this, in the little ways where we compromise," he said. But "we can witness through physical things to open a door to begin dialogue."

"Walking through the Charlotte airport in my robe on this trip, I was stopped by several people — some Catholic, some not — and I saw others noticed and sometimes stared, especially children," he said.

Father Martinez encouraged his audience to witness their faith through such physical things as well as their actions.

"Don't compromise your values. Pray to be strong," he said.

## Catholic doctors united by faith

Local couple attends Catholic medical conference, find community of support among peers

BY KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

BALTIMORE — Maureen Kennedy retired from her career as an obstetrician/gynecologist in 2000 but she remembers all too well the challenges that Catholic medical professionals face on a daily basis.

When Kennedy and her husband Jim McGovern, a pediatric cardiologist, attended the Catholic Medical Association's 77th annual Educational Conference in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 9-11, they were relieved to meet other medical professionals who were dedicated to defending the culture of life in the medical field.

"You didn't have to worry about talking about natural family planning or being against abortion," said Kennedy, who attends St. Barnabas Church in Arden with her husband and their three children.

"There were no eggshells to walk on because everybody was on the same page," she said.

This year, the conference's theme was "Theology of the Body" and session topics focused on applying the teachings to various areas: understanding and healing interpersonal relationships, including the physician-patient relationship; raising and treating children; health and reproduction; and issues in aging.

"It was just really interesting how they could apply it ('Theology of the Body') to pediatrics, to geriatrics, to mid-life, to how we relate to our patients and certainly all the aspects of defending life in the medical world," said Kennedy.

"Theology of the Body" teaches us that we're not just a bunch of parts. We have a dignity because God gave us these bodies. And so really, it is about caring for the patient as a whole," she said.

The CMA is a national professional association, founded as the Catholic Physicians Guild by Cardinal William O'Connell in Boston in 1912.

Dr. John Brehany, executive director of the CMA, which draws members from the United States and Canada, said that approximately 320 people registered for the conference.

Dr. George Isajiw, of Upper Darby, Pa., the association's president in 1992-93, said the group's membership rolls plummeted after Pope Paul VI in 1968 issued "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life"), his encyclical on artificial contraception and the role of procreation in marriage.

The 7,000-word encyclical upheld the church's long-standing prohibition

on artificial contraception. Initially, it was thought that Pope Paul might support the use of birth control, and once the encyclical was released opposition rose throughout the church.

"When the (CMA) board voted to support 'Humanae Vitae,' we lost more than 50 percent of our members," Isajiw said. "The organization dropped down to just several hundred, but we've seen great growth in the last 10-15 years."

Membership is booming, thanks to younger health care professionals.

"We're getting an influx of younger members, men and women who are just starting their practices. Many are joining because of issues related to contraception, natural family planning," Isajiw said.

"It was very encouraging to see that there are people who are trying to be faithful and do the right thing not just medically, but for the patient as a whole," said Kennedy.

The original guild was established in order to educate Catholic physicians in church doctrine relating to the practice of medicine.

Today the CMA provides professional and spiritual support to Catholic physicians and medical students in order to maintain their Catholic values in their medical practices.

"My hope is that more physicians and medical people learn about this so that we can all sort of ban together," said Kennedy.

The conference concluded Oct. 11 with Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien celebrating an evening White Mass for health care professionals at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The White Mass draws its name from the traditional uniform color associated with the medical profession.

Next year's conference will be held in Springfield, Ill. Oct. 22-24, 2009. The theme will be the "Theology of Suffering: Bringing faith, hope, and love to the art of healing."

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore by calling (704) 370-3354, or e-mail [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).

### WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Catholic Medical Association, visit its Web site at [www.cathmed.org](http://www.cathmed.org).

### ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmore@charlottediocese.org).

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## Diocese of Charlotte named in lawsuit

*Diocese refutes priest's transfer was 'rushed'*

CHARLOTTE — In a recently filed civil lawsuit, a Charlotte man claims he was sexually molested by a priest in Charlotte in 1999.

The suit names Capuchin Franciscan Father Robert Yurgel, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Matthew Church and Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte during the late 1990s.

In April, Father Yurgel was arrested in New Jersey, where he was ministering in a hospital. At that time, he was returned to North Carolina to face charges of having sex with a minor.

He is currently free on bond and living outside North Carolina, and is being supervised by his religious order, the Capuchin Franciscans.

Except to refute one statement that was reported in the secular news about the lawsuit, the Diocese of Charlotte, through its spokesman David Hains, said the diocese would respond to the suit in due time. The refuted statement regards an allegation that Father Yurgel's transfer out of the diocese in 1999 was "rushed." Hains described the allegation as an "absolute falsehood."

Since the diocese adopted the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" in 2002, more than 18,000 diocesan employees and church volunteers have attended the diocese's sex-abuse awareness training program, "Protecting God's Children."

The diocese conducts background

checks on employees and volunteers to safeguard the young and the vulnerable. More than 3,800 background checks were conducted during the last fiscal year.

The training and background checks are ongoing.

In June 2002 at a meeting in Dallas, the U.S. bishops adopted the charter and its mandates for an annual audit and survey and also adopted the "Essential Norms" to assure that all dioceses adhere to the charter.

The charter also established the Office of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board to oversee compliance with the charter. The Diocese of Charlotte has been found in compliance with the charter.

The charter was updated in 2005, the norms in 2006. The charter and norms have Vatican approval.

### NEED ASSISTANCE?

As a part of its commitment to support the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the Diocese of Charlotte has appointed a coordinator to assist survivors of sexual abuse.

The assistance coordinator can help survivors of abuse, whether the incident took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese.

The current coordinator is David Harold. Contact him at (704) 370-3363 or [dwharold@charlottediocese.org](mailto:dwharold@charlottediocese.org).

### DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

## Variety of lay experts serve on U.S. bishops' National Review Board

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two educators, a district court judge, a psychologist and a civic association leader are among those serving three-year terms on the National Review Board.

A judge and another psychologist also have been named to the board for terms beginning June 1, 2009.

Established by the bishops in 2002, the board reviews diocesan compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," oversees diocesan audits on child protection policies and practices, and recommends ways to ensure child protection to dioceses and church-based agencies.

The recent additions to the board began their terms in June. They were:

— Ana Maria Catanazaro, an associate professor, director of public health programs and director of La Salle Neighborhood Nursing Center at La Salle

University in Philadelphia. She also is a member of the Philadelphia Archdiocese's Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People.

— Ruben Gallegos, who spent 33 years as an educator and currently is executive director of International Educational Services Inc., a Los Fresnos, Texas-based child care association for unaccompanied minors from Central America.

— Al Notzon III, recently retired as the director of the Alamo Area Council of Governments in Texas and chairman of the San Antonio Archdiocesan Review Board.

— Thomas Plante, professor of psychology at Santa Clara University and adjunct clinical associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine.

— Judge Geraldine Rivera of the second judicial district of New Mexico's District Court.

## Helping warm the body of Christ

*Annual Blanket Banquet cares for record number of needy in Charlotte*

CHARLOTTE — As the crowd at the Eucharistic Congress began to depart the Charlotte Convention Center, another crowd was gathering nearby.

More than 200 people were served by the fourth annual Blanket Banquet outside St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte Oct. 4.

Volunteers from parishes around the Diocese of Charlotte collected and gave away blankets, clothing, sleeping bags and other items, including meals, to homeless individuals and people in need.

The Blanket Banquet began as a social action component to the Eucharistic Congress, according to Linda Flynn, this year's Blanket Banquet coordinator and a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

"This event changes all of us," said Flynn. "We see our differences simply melt away as we celebrate being one family, one body in Christ."

Flynn said the Blanket Banquet was especially crucial this year with expected colder temperatures as well as the worsening economy.

Volunteers served more than 225 people, an increase of 50 percent from last year's Blanket Banquet.

Among them was an increase in women, three of whom were pregnant, said Flynn.

Many of those served expressed joy and gratitude, said Flynn, not only for the items and food but "for the respect shown to them, a simple recognition of their human dignity not common in their daily experience."

The volunteers also provided spiritual encouragement and practical advice on where to find assistance.

In 2007, there were approximately 5,000 homeless persons in the Charlotte area, according to a story in Charlotte Weekly.

As of June, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools reported 2,493 homeless students, a 35 percent increase from two years ago.

"This event changes all of us. We see our differences melt away as we celebrate being one family, one body in Christ."

— Linda Flynn



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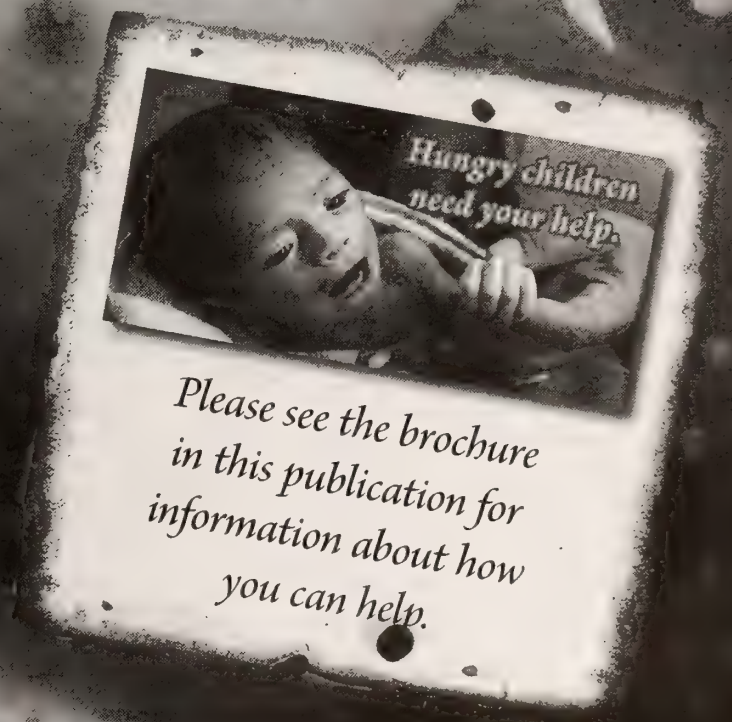
# "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You..."

(Matthew 25:37b)

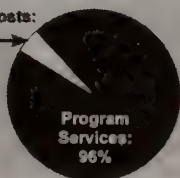
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# Dramatic stories in Bible inspire artists for centuries

BIBLE, from page 1

situations," and the Bible is bursting with them.

Sitting in his top-floor office in the Vatican, Paolucci narrated visually inspiring biblical scenes: "Mary Magdalene, this attractive blonde — artists have painted her as a blonde; you have to let artists use their imaginations — who begins to cry and wipes Jesus' feet with her hair.

"The Bible is full of these situations that are by definition artistic," he said.

The collections housed in the Vatican Museums are by no means limited to religious art, but obviously the place is a treasure-trove of sacred images.

Paolucci does not buy the idea that some works of religious art were motivated by a challenge to visually educate Christians in the faith and others were motivated simply by a search for beauty.

"For Catholic artists, aesthetics coincides precisely with faith — they are the same thing," he said. "Ancient artists, especially, were convinced that in order to recount the things of God, religious truths, one must use beauty."

The more beautiful a work, he said, the closer it comes to showing people something about God.

## Sistine Chapel

The most famous part of the Vatican Museums — the Sistine Chapel — is a perfect example of beauty placed at the service of education in the faith.

"Because it was a papal chapel, it had to show how the church of Rome accepted the ancient Scriptures, the Hebrew Scriptures, and joined them to the New Testament," Paolucci said.

The frescoes on the chapel's south wall depict scenes from the life of Moses, the giver of the law who led his people out of slavery in Egypt to new life in the Promised Land; the north wall frescoes illustrate parallel scenes from the life of Jesus, who revealed the new commandment and frees people from their slavery to sin, giving them new life.

The side walls were painted in 1481-83.

"Then, in 1508 — 500 years ago — Michelangelo arrives and does the ceiling," Paolucci said.

"With that, the chapel presents a synthesis of the entirety of Christian theology: the law of Moses and the Old Testament on one wall; the new command of Christ on the opposite wall; the creation of the world overhead; and, in front of us, that which awaits us after death — the Last Judgment," he said.

"The chapel is the synthesis of the catechism," Paolucci said.

## The perfect symbol

When pressed, Paolucci said his favorite Old Testament-themed art in the Vatican Museums is Sandro Botticelli's



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

This is a detail from Sandro Botticelli's "The Trials of Moses," painted on the south wall of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican.

"The Trials of Moses," which is one of the panels on the south wall of the Sistine Chapel.

The fresco shows several scenes from the second and third chapters of Exodus.

"Botticelli's work is very elegant, refined," he said.

As for a work inspired by a New Testament story, Paolucci responded even before the question was finished: "I have no doubts. It's 'The Deposition of Christ' by Caravaggio."

The massive oil painting, executed at the beginning of the 1600s, shows the lifeless body of Jesus taken down from the cross by Nicodemus and the apostle John in the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Clopas.

The face of the crucified Jesus is ashen, but his body — soon to be resurrected — is bathed in light.

In Christian art, Paolucci said, the two most popular themes are those surrounding the birth of Jesus and those surrounding his death and resurrection.

"The Nativity scene and the crucified Jesus are everywhere in art throughout the world," he said. "They are so popular because they are the synthesis of our religion: Jesus was born and died on the cross, offering his blood as a sacrifice for the salvation of all men and women."

Christian artists are not the only ones who have found in the crucifixion the perfect symbol of the "terrible, dramatic" death of an innocent, Paolucci said.

The Vatican Museums' Collection of Contemporary Religious Art includes "Christ and the Painter," just one of the crucifixion scenes painted by the Jewish artist Marc Chagall.

The contemporary collection is growing despite the fact that "there are not many world-famous artists today interested in religious themes," he said.

The most prolific period for biblical-themed art was the Middle Ages, he said, because "it was a very religious time. People were really afraid of hell because of the Black Death."

# Pope emphasizes that theology, Scripture go hand in hand

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first address to the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI underlined that theology and Scriptures must go hand in hand with exegetical studies.

When exegesis — critical analysis or interpretation — does not appeal to theology or when Scripture is not the soul of theology or theology is not rooted in the Scriptures, then there is a problem with the way sacred writings are being interpreted, the pope said during the synod Oct. 14.

Canadian Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, the synod's English-language briefing officer, told reporters Oct. 14 that in the pope's seven-minute speech on the exegesis of the Bible "he spoke about the three methodological elements of interpretation, the unity of all Scriptures and the living tradition of the church that's present as we read the Scriptures."

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the pope's talk echoed the 1993 document, "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church," issued by the Pontifical Biblical Commission, which was headed by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now

the pope. That document commented on the strengths and potential weaknesses of a variety of approaches currently found in biblical scholarship.

In his synod talk, the pope said the historical-critical method of interpretation of Scriptures has helped people understand that sacred texts are not myths, but true history, and the method helps scholars understand the "deep unity of all of Scripture," the newspaper said in its Oct. 15 edition.

However, an exegesis that exclusively uses a historical-critical method carries with it great risks, he said.

L'Osservatore Romano reported the pope said such an interpretation could lead people to believe the Bible is only a book about the past.

He said if the hermeneutics of faith disappears and is replaced by a positivistic or secular hermeneutics, then the divine does not appear in history and, as is happening in the work of some biblical scholars in Germany, the resurrection of Christ is refuted.

Pope Benedict sees no reason for theology and exegesis to be separated, L'Osservatore Romano said.

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# Presidential candidates and education issues

BIBLE, from page 1

plenty of differences.

And while they tend to speak primarily of public schools, Catholic school officials are paying attention to their promises, looking for what a future administration may emphasize.

Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama agree on the importance of having qualified teachers in the classroom and the need to make college tuition more affordable. They disagree on school choice, how to improve teacher quality and how to fund public education.

In tackling educational reform, they plan to keep in place, although in a changed form, the No Child Left Behind Act, which was enacted in 2002 and is currently up for reauthorization.

The candidates see weaknesses in the legislation requiring states to hold schools and districts accountable for improving student achievement, but they propose different ways to fix it.

Marie Powell, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Catholic Education, told Catholic News Service she will be closely following the reauthorization, which was originally slated for this year.

She said she realizes the reauthorization won't be the top priority of a new administration, but she hopes that when it resurfaces before Congress, it will be "restored to its original purpose of equitability," meaning it should benefit students and teachers from public and private schools and not bar those in private schools from getting the services they need.

Though both candidates say they would make changes to the No Child Left Behind legislation, they have not released specific plans.

Although McCain voted for the law he has been critical of its effectiveness. One change he proposes would make it easier for students in failing schools to receive tutoring after school through private companies.

Obama, who also has been critical of the legislation, has described it as

ineffective and inadequately funded.

He faults it for using what he says are poorly designed tests to measure failing schools and said the schools that need improvement should get support, not the punishment currently set up by the law, which includes firing teachers and principals, closing schools or turning them over to a private firm, a charter operator or the state.

## Choice and charters

While educators across the country will be looking to see a new direction, if any, for No Child Left Behind, Catholic school officials also are keeping a keen eye on school-choice initiatives — an issue on which the candidates disagree.

McCain has stated his support for school choice, but critics say he has failed to outline specifics of what he would do other than expand federally funded opportunity scholarships in Washington for low-income students.

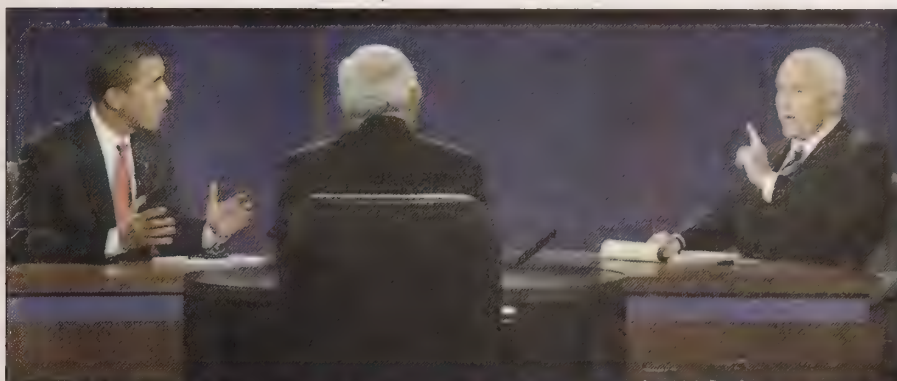
The Washington scholarship program, which provides vouchers to almost 2,000 students, many of whom attend Catholic schools, is in its final year and has an uncertain future unless it is reauthorized by Congress.

Obama favors limited school choice that gives students the option of attending a charter school. During a Sept. 9 speech at a public school in Ohio, he said he would double the funding for charter schools to \$400 million a year.

Charter schools, publicly funded but privately operated, have been unpopular with teachers unions who say these schools take funds and students from public schools. Although national teachers unions have endorsed Obama, he has split with them on this issue and on his proposal of incentive payment for successful teachers, something McCain similarly endorses.

In their 2007 document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S. bishops emphasize that parents should be able to choose the best education for their children and that the government, through tax credits and scholarships, "should help provide resources for parents, especially those of modest means."

Sister Dale McDonald, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the director of public policy



CNS PHOTO BY GARY HERSHORN, REUTERS

Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and Sen. John McCain of Arizona interact during their debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., Oct. 15. It was the final debate for the Democratic and Republican nominees before voters head to the polls Nov. 4. Bob Schieffer (center) of CBS News was moderator.

and educational research for the National Catholic Educational Association, said her office is "not hoping for the (next) president to wave a magic wand" when it comes to school-choice initiatives.

In previous years, she said, candidates "promised school choice and it never came to be."

She is slightly more optimistic about educational tax credits where individuals and corporations can donate funds to be used for school tuition or other educational expenses.

But with the current state of the economy, she told CNS she also fears tax credits are "not shining brightly on the horizon."

## Catholic schools, too

In their higher education proposals, the candidates want to help students better afford college tuition, but they offer different ways to that end.

Obama has proposed issuing a tax credit to offset \$4,000 in college tuition in exchange for 100 hours of community service. He has proposed overhauling the federal student loan program and expanding the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and other national service programs.

McCain supports an increase in Pell grants — federal scholarships based on family need — and he also backs expanding low-interest college loans for middle-class families.

Sister McDonald noted that although "education is a small part of both parties' platforms" Catholic school officials want to be "on the radar screen" during the election year.

That's why the NCEA submitted statements to the national platform committees of both parties stating their support for school choice and educational reform that helps all students and teachers.

"We are an important part of American education and we want fair treatment for our students and acknowledgement of what we do," said Sister McDonald, stressing the work Catholic schools do with lower-income and non-Catholic students.

Powell also said Catholic school officials will continue to promote themselves to political leaders as a reminder of everything that Catholic schools do.

"We're not just a fringe group," she added.

## Bishop Wenski seeks balanced, humane immigration policy in 2008

WASHINGTON(CNS)—Lamenting that illegal immigration has been largely unaddressed during the presidential campaign, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., said the new White House administration and Congress must confront the issue and develop a consistent, effective and humane policy that bridges political divisions.

Writing in The Washington Post Oct. 20, Bishop Wenski, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace and a consultant to the conference's Committee on Migration, said the current enforcement-only approach to illegal immigration is ineffective and contrary to national interests.

"In truth, intermittent work-site raids, increased local law enforcement involvement and the creation of a wall along parts of our southern border, among other efforts, have done little to address the challenges presented by illegal immigration," Bishop Wenski wrote in an opinion piece.

While high-profile work-site raids across the country "meet the political need to show government's law enforcement's capabilities," they have had a minimal

impact on the number of undocumented workers in the country, he said.

Such efforts have done little more than cause what Bishop Wenski termed "dislocation and disruption in immigrant communities" while victimizing permanent U.S. residents and citizens, including children.

It is doubtful that stringent enforcement actions will lead to a mass exodus of illegal and legal immigrants, as some organizations that oppose immigration hope, Bishop Wenski said.

"What (those opposing immigration) do not acknowledge is that 70 percent of the undocumented have lived in this country for five years or longer and have no home to return to," he said.

"These people identify themselves more as Americans than anything else and would rather live here in the shadows than take their U.S.-citizen children back to a place they do not know," the bishop said.

Not addressing the immigration issue will elevate tensions in states and local communities and "tacitly affirm the acceptance of a hidden and permanent underclass in our country," Bishop Wenski added.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Hollywood screenwriter returns to Cleveland, turns life over to God

BY NANCY ERIKSON  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CLEVELAND — The Gospel of Luke's prodigal son has nothing on Joe Eszterhas.

A self-described "Hollywood animal," Eszterhas is best known for writing such adult-themed thrillers as "Basic Instinct" and "Jagged Edge." He is a guy who seemed to live his earlier life as if the seven deadly sins were a personal to-do list.

But then Eszterhas found God. Or as Eszterhas writes in his latest memoir, "Crossbearer," God found him.

Today, the man who once was the center of attention at exclusive Hollywood restaurants, enjoys the easygoing community spirit of sharing a meal with his wife, Naomi, and the couple's four sons at a Lenten fish fry at Holy Angels Church, where he often carries the cross at Mass.

A screenwriter who describes his younger self as arrogant and full of hubris now reads the works of Trappist Father Thomas Merton and Dutch-born Father Henri Nouwen for spiritual guidance.

On the coffee table in his home is the latest book about Jesus' life from former vampire novelist Anne Rice, another notorious writer who reclaimed her Catholic faith.

Days that once started and ended with cigarettes and gin, now are filled with prayer and quiet walks in nature.

"I have to tell you overwhelmingly, in the seven years since God has entered my heart, or since I opened my heart enough for God to enter it, I wake up in a totally different way," Eszterhas said.

"I have a great sense day to day of inspiration," he said.

Born in 1944 in Hungary, Eszterhas grew up in a post-World War II refugee camp before moving with his Catholic parents when he was 7 to Cleveland's near west side, where he often served as an altar boy at St. Emeric Church.

His father was editor of a Hungarian Catholic newspaper and his mother grew beautiful roses and had a strong devotion to Mary. Still, life for his family in what he calls the "strudel ghetto" was difficult.

He attended Catholic high school, but acknowledges his near misses with juvenile delinquency.

Early in his writing career he worked as a reporter in Cleveland covering the crime beat, witnessing some of the grisliest, most violent stories in the city. Those tales, coupled with what he witnessed in the refugee camp, were the fodder for his lucrative screenwriting career.

Meanwhile, Eszterhas had become what he called a functional alcoholic. He began smoking at 12, drinking at 14. He used tequila and gin and four packs of cigarettes a day to "fuel" his writing.

He also experienced deep pain in his life. His mother suffered from mental

illness and later died from cancer, an event that further distanced him from God. Eszterhas was close to his father, but their relationship was never the same again after his father was exposed as having been a writer of Nazi propaganda during World War II.

He never was deported, Eszterhas said, but he couldn't help wondering if his father's hateful words inspired someone to commit violent acts against others.

"I really couldn't forgive him, even as he died," Eszterhas said. "I think I finally forgave him when God came into my heart."

Seven years ago he and Naomi, also a Catholic with a special devotion to Mary, decided to move to Geauga County, east of Cleveland, to raise their sons with more traditional values. They also wanted to get away from what he felt were Hollywood's negative influences.

It was home, so to speak, and it became the setting for his new relationship with God.

Shortly afterward Eszterhas was diagnosed with throat cancer. Surgery left him with a tracheotomy and unable to speak, and his doctor warned him he could never smoke or drink again.

To fight his cravings, he started walking every day, which took some of the edge off. One summer day in 2001 on his walk, the cravings were terrible. He became filled with frustration and despair, sat down and started to sob.

"I heard a voice inside me that said, 'Please, God, help me.' And even as I heard it, I thought to myself, 'What is this?'" he said. "But then I heard the voice again and I realized it was something inside my own heart that was praying for the first time since I'd been a boy."

Describing himself as a "baby Catholic," Eszterhas said after that day battling addiction didn't become easier but he felt renewed strength.

At first, he was cautious about rekindling his relationship with God.

"I didn't even ask God for a while to save my life and to let me be around my family," he said. "I asked God to help me with my addictions. And he did."

"But then I thought to myself finally after weeks and maybe some months that God did truly love me and that I felt that I could ask God to save my life," he said.

Since then, he has fought against glamorizing smoking in movies. He also has campaigned to bring more family-oriented and faith-oriented entertainment into the movies.

At home, he has devoted his life to being the best father and husband he can. He also strives daily to deepen his relationship with Christ.

"I am generally moved when I carry the cross and I carry it at Holy Angels a lot because I feel it's a real honor to carry it," he said. "I do feel like I'm carrying Christ on the cross."

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 2, 2008

Nov. 2, The Commemoration  
of All the Faithful Departed  
(All Souls)

Cycle A Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 3:1-9  
Psalm 23:1-6
- 2) Romans 5:5-11  
Gospel: John 6:37-40

## Hate the sin, love the sinner

BY JEFF HEDGLEN  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In 22 years of professional ministry, I've learned there is one truth that people consistently find hard to believe: God loves them in the midst of their sin. This is true even for me.

Events in my life sent me seeking counseling in the early 1990s. One evening, partly as a result of the counseling, I had what I'd describe as a fight with myself.

It was a battle of two thoughts. In one corner was my long-held belief that my sin made me a bad person. In the other corner was the up-and-coming challenger that said it is my actions that are bad, not me.

This radical new idea rocked my world. Every time I took a swing at this

new thought, it would land a punch in my midsection in the form of Scripture verses that popped into my head.

One verse was Genesis 1:31: "I looked at everything he had made, and found it very good."

This told me that everything God made is not just OK, but very good. Since I am a creation of God, I too must be very good.

To that I countered that sin characterizes things. Sin takes away the good that brings in the bad. If I am bad and God is good, how can God love me?

After much more sparring came the knockout punch, which is found in this Sunday's second reading: "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Through this verse I began to understand that my sinful actions were bad, but God always sees me as good and worthy of his love. This revelation changed everything for me.

After many ensuing years of reflection on this truth, it has finally sunk in that even in the midst of the worst of my sins, God loves me the same as when I walk down the aisle to receive Communion.

When I share this revelation with others it usually draws skepticism, but this is why the message of Jesus is good news!

God doesn't wait for us to stop sinning before he loves us. God's love is always there. All we have to do is open our hearts and let his love in.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 26-NOV. 1

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 22:20-26, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40; Monday, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; Tuesday (Sts. Simon and Jude), Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; Wednesday, Ephesians 6:1-9, Luke 13:22-30; Thursday, Ephesians 6:10-20, Luke 13:31-35; Friday, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; Saturday (All Saints), Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 2-8

Sunday (All Souls), Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; Monday (St. Martin de Porres), Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; Tuesday (St. Charles Borromeo), Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; Wednesday, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; Thursday, Philippians 3:3-8, Luke 15:1-10; Friday, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8; Saturday, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

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# Revealing reels

poignant moments, some surprises in new film about late pope

BY JOHN THAVIS  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II was lightly wounded by a knife-wielding priest in Portugal in 1982, one year after a gunman tried to kill him in St. Peter's Square, according to one of the pope's closest aides.

The disclosure came in a biographical film screened for the first time at the Vatican on Oct. 16, the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election. Pope Benedict XVI and many of the world's bishops were in attendance.

Titled "Testimony," the film is based on a book of memoirs by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, who was the late pope's personal secretary for 39 years, until the pope's death in 2005.

In the film, Cardinal Dziwisz recalled that the pope went to the Marian sanctuary of Fatima, Portugal, in 1982 to thank Mary for saving his life in the 1981 shooting. During an evening ceremony, a priest carrying a large knife lunged toward the pontiff.

At the time, Vatican officials said the pope was unharmed and was only informed about the incident the next day.

In the film, Cardinal Dziwisz said the pope was in fact able to carry on with the prayer service and the rest of his schedule in Fatima.

"It was only when we returned to his room that I saw blood on his vestments," the cardinal added.

He did not elaborate, but other Vatican sources said the pope may have been superficially wounded in the attack.

The 90-minute film, narrated in English by the actor Michael York but dubbed in Italian for the Vatican screening, used actors to depict scenes from the pope's life along with historical video footage and still photographs.

Cardinal Dziwisz recounted how he and aides would spirit the pope out of the Vatican on secret outings to the mountains near Rome, sometimes hiding the pontiff behind an opened newspaper in the back of a car.

In one of the most dramatic reenactments in the film, the pope performs an exorcism on a woman brought to him thrashing and screaming. Cardinal



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI embraces Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland after the debut of a new film on the life of the late Pope John Paul II during a special screening at the Vatican Oct. 16.

Dziwisz said the woman was possessed, and only when the pope told her he would celebrate a Mass for her did she suddenly become calm.

Some of the film's most poignant moments came when Cardinal Dziwisz revealed simple facts about the pope's day-to-day life in the Vatican: how each morning he read the prayer intentions that had been sent to him and placed on his kneeler, then spent a long time praying for them; how he was upset by the fact that homeless people were sleeping on the Vatican's doorstep, and so asked Blessed Mother Teresa to open a charity shelter inside the Vatican; and how he brought Polish traditions to the Vatican, especially at Christmas.

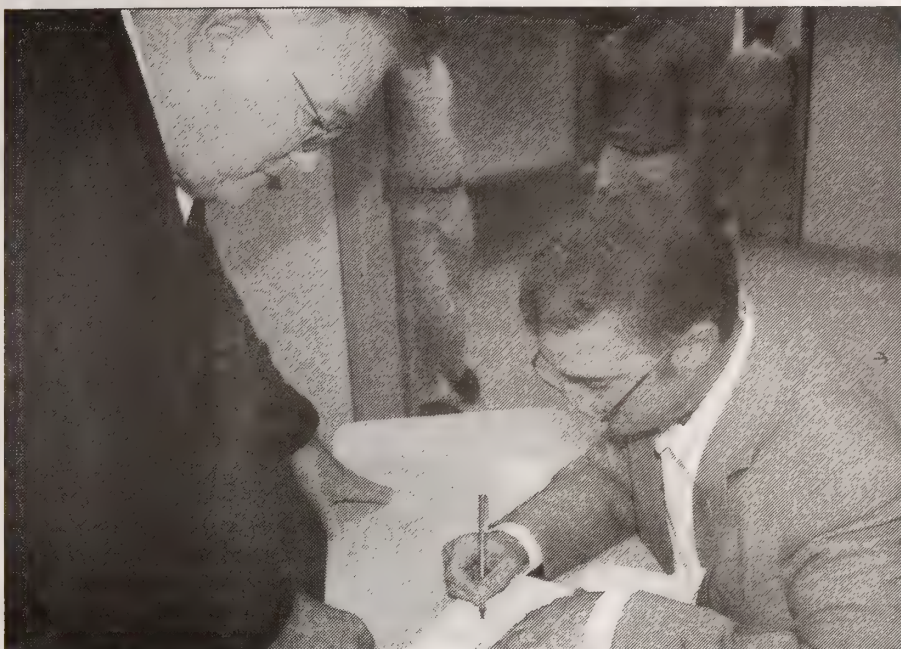
The pope would sing aloud at least one Christmas song a day for several weeks, beginning Christmas Eve, he said.

The film drew the biggest round of applause when it showed then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — now Pope Benedict XVI — embracing the pope many years ago.

At the end of the screening, Pope Benedict addressed the several thousand people in the Vatican's audience hall and told them the film had allowed them all to relive the moving story of Pope John Paul, who "from heaven is certainly with us."

"The film reveals Pope John Paul's human simplicity, his resolute courage and finally his suffering, faced right up to the end with the strength of a mountaineer and the patience of a humble servant of the Gospel," he said.

## Local author signs book on saint



COURTESY PHOTO BY KERI FREEMAN

Justin Catanoso, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, signs a copy of his book, "My Cousin the Saint: A Search for Faith, Family and Miracles," at an Italian heritage night event at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 10.

Catanoso, a second-generation Italian-American journalist in the Triad area, wrote the book after learning he is related to St. Gaetano Catanoso, a southern Italian priest who died in 1963 and was canonized Oct. 23, 2005.

Catanoso and relatives attended the canonization ceremony, during which Padre Catanoso and four others became the first group of saints proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.

## Priest's meditations on CDs aim to help people listen for God's voice

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — A popular saying reminds people that "good things come in threes."

That saying could apply to "Pathways to Prayer," a three-volume set of CDs featuring guided imagery meditations by Father James Farrell, the new director of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. The recordings of his soothing voice are set to background music elements with nature sounds to enhance the listener's meditation experience.

They were created to help people grow closer to Jesus by spending quiet time listening for God's voice, Father Farrell explained in an interview.

Since October 1975, the priest has been a frequent retreat presenter and has conducted parish missions. Through the years, his guided imagery meditations have become popular with retreatants.

A note on the CD jacket suggests that people "try to create a space for solitude" while listening to the CDs, whether at home or during walks in nature.

Each guided meditation concludes with calming instrumental music to give listeners time to slowly return to the present moment after their virtual spiritual journey.

In volume I, "you meet with Jesus on the porch and have a little conversation with him," Father Farrell said. "He wants to know how things are going in your life right now. It's an opportunity to talk to Jesus directly about issues and concerns — things that may be weighing on you

— and an opportunity to listen for Jesus' response to your needs and petitions."

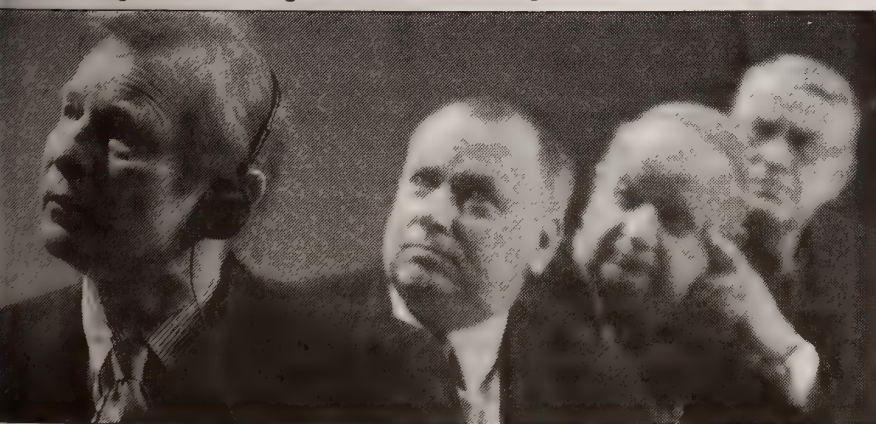
The second CD features Father Farrell's narrative of Jesus visiting a person at home.

"Jesus comes to your home and you give him a tour of your house," Father Farrell explained. "Then you take Jesus to your favorite place in the house and have a conversation with him there about your life and your family. It's an opportunity to grow in love for Jesus and realize that he really is a part of your life."

The third CD, released earlier this year, focuses on getting to know Jesus in this life and spending eternal life with God. It "is built around the theme of a covered bridge," Father Farrell said. "You meet Jesus on the covered bridge then do a little life review."

"In the course of the conversation, Jesus tells you that he came from the other side of the bridge, that there is a time for life on both sides of the bridge, and that when it is your time to come to the other side of the bridge he will invite you and you will go with him," he said.

The theme applies to "any kind of a rite of passage in our life," he said. "Whether we are moving through an illness or moving through some other life change, we are letting go of some things and embracing something new. It's an opportunity to walk through that covered bridge and discover that Jesus is on the other side of that passageway just as he has been on the side that you are on now."



(CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS)

actor Michael York (left) watches a film clip during an Oct. 15 news conference in Rome to promote a film on the late Pope John Paul II. Also pictured are (from left) producer Przemyslaw Hauser; Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland; and Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.



## 'A gifted and talented missionary'

### Glenmary Father Bob Bond, pastor and former editor, dies at 75

CINCINNATI — Glenmary Father Bob Bond, a priest who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died Sept. 1, 2008, at Blue Ash Hospice in Cincinnati, Ohio, after a brief illness.

He was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Cincinnati Sept. 10.

A native of Cincinnati, Father Bond had been a Glenmary Home Missioner for more than 50 years.

Ordained as a priest in 1960, Father Bond taught theology and liturgy in Glenmary's formation program during the 1960s after receiving a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy, in 1962.

His hands-on mission work began and ended in the Appalachian Mountains. His assignments took him to Kentucky, Oklahoma, Virginia and North Carolina — in Murphy (1963-64), Boone (1969) and Andrews (1998-2002).

Upon retiring in 2002, Father Bond took up residence in Burnsville, where he lived until moving to Glenmary Headquarters in Cincinnati in summer 2008.

Father Bond also led Glenmary's mission office from 1980 until 1986, and served as editor of the quarterly magazine, Glenmary Challenge, from 1980 until 1993.

He was an accomplished photographer and writer, and his skills were recognized with awards from national and local professional organizations such as the Catholic Press Association and the Cincinnati Editor's Association.

"Father Bob was a gifted and talented missionary who served Glenmary, and most importantly the people of the home missions, in a variety of ministries — as pastor, as director of the mission office and as editor of Glenmary Challenge," said Glenmary Father Dan Dorsey, president of Glenmary.

"His creativity in his mission work allowed him to touch the lives of all those — Catholics and non-Catholics — living in the mission counties he served," said Father Dorsey.

That creativity showed itself in the ways he used to introduce himself and make contacts within a county.

He was a motorcycle-riding priest who wrote both news articles and columns on Catholicism for local newspapers, or produced local television programs or filled a slot on local radio programs answering questions about Catholicism.

His parishioners and the people of the county he was serving could find him playing softball and tennis on local teams or bowling with the local league.

His goal was to call together and serve the Catholic mission community and connect those communities to the larger county.

Wherever his ministry assignments led him, he carried with him a desire to educate, whether by offering classes on computers to youth or organizing and leading annual shopping trips for elementary-aged children each Christmas.



COURTESY PHOTO

Glenmary Father Bob Bond smokes his trademark pipe in this undated photograph. An avid and award-winning photographer, he loved nothing better than "a good black and white photo."

**"His creativity in his mission work allowed him to touch the lives of all those — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — living in the mission counties he served."**

— Glenmary Father Dan Dorsey

While in Andrews, Father Bond repaired old computers donated by friends and gave them to local families and charities.

He also tutored children and adults to help them become computer literate because, as he said in 1999, "I don't like to treat the symptoms but the causes. People today are not going to get a job without computer skills."

On Sept. 25, 2007, in honor of his 75th birthday, Father Bond's work in the home missions and his contributions to the larger church were recognized on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina.

Foxx spoke of Father Bond's work, saying he "typified the church's call to reach out to those in need and share the love of Christ. He was truly ahead of his time in his faithful efforts to bring the power of God's love to those who might never darken the door of a church."

Father Bond is survived by three brothers, nieces, nephews, his fellow missionaries and friends.

Memorials may be made to Glenmary Home Missioners, P.O. Box 465618, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

## ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.

Contact Staff Writer Katie Moore at (704) 370-3354 or [kmmoore@charlottediocese.org](mailto:kmmoore@charlottediocese.org).

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# Making math fun



COURTESY PHOTO

Rebecca Nordstrom and Caitlin Finger, kindergarten students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, group similar objects during the school's first-ever Family Math Night Sept. 25. Nearly 100 families of students in prekindergarten through fifth-grade participated in the event designed to build better math skills through game, activities and parental involvement.

# Creating cards of caring

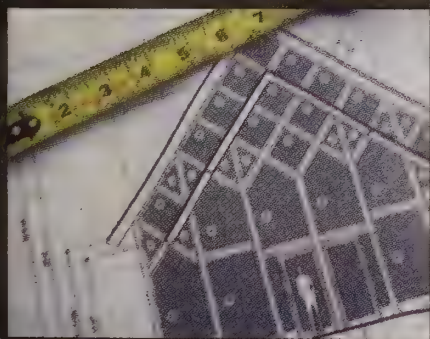


COURTESY PHOTO

First-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro hold the prayer cards they created for residents of Maryfield Health Care Households Neighborhood, formerly known as Maryfield Nursing Home, whom they visited and attended Mass with Oct. 8. Each month, a different grade level visits and attends Mass with residents at the nursing home, founded by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

"I am excited that my children will be a part of an outreach effort where both students and the residents of Maryfield Health Care Households Neighborhood will interact in a meaningful way," said Laura Mims, a parent of students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. "The relationship between our young people and the elderly is one that should be grown and nurtured."

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## An invitation to pray

*Upcoming novena a time to reflect, discern, decide*

For more than two years we have been hearing from Independents, Republicans and Democrats as to what they claim to be their positions, beliefs and policies. Many people do not feel entirely comfortable with any one party's plan.

However, whether we like it or not, one party will be in power and pursuing its agenda in the White House come Jan. 20, 2009.

Over the last several months, there has been an escalation in rhetoric between the candidates, the parties and their supporters regarding the issue of abortion and other life issues, and which candidate and party has the "right" approach to these problems.

Sadly, the rhetoric has become so overpowering that the din is deafening.

When I was in the seminary, a priest during a homily made the following observation: "The devil does not care whether we are pro-life or pro-abortion. He only cares that we hate."

The point is that if we allow our approach to abortion to be guided by anger and hatred for those who disagree with us, then Satan wins.

If God is love, as we Catholics certainly believe he is, then to act in a manner that is opposed to love is to act as opposed to God.

So the question becomes this: How does one who wants to be a faithful Catholic and do what God has called us to do make the right choice?

We all need to be sure that we have studied the teachings of the Catholic Church and have prayed devoutly.

Each of us must make well-informed decisions when we enter the voting booth to cast our votes for the candidates and issues.

I would suggest that the time has come for us to set aside the candidates' stump speeches, the "spin doctors" and advertising gimmicks.

Once we have read and understood what God has revealed through sacred Scripture and the constant teaching of the church, which can be found in the catechism, it is time to turn off the din and listen again.

Listen to whom? Listen to God.

If we are true believers and we want to follow what God has truly asked us to

### Guest Column

FATHER  
CHRISTOPHER  
A. ROUX  
GUEST COLUMNIST



do with this very important matter, it's time that we ask him again about what we have studied.

Thus, I make a concrete proposal and invitation. St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte will begin a novena of prayerful eucharistic adoration on Sunday, Oct. 26 following the 12:30 p.m. Mass.

The novena will end Monday, Nov. 3, with Benediction at 7 p.m.

This time of adoration will continue around the clock, interrupted only by holy Mass.

During this time, everyone is invited to join in prayerful discernment of their upcoming vote.

This is not a time for campaigning or discussions. No placards or literature that pushes one side or another will be displayed.

Rather, it will be a time of private adoration and prayer.

For too long we have been inundated with the noise of partisan politics and bickering. Now is the time to quiet the noise.

So, because we believe the Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present among us, come and pray. Let us set aside anything that may have divided us and ask love himself to guide us to do his will.

So, bring your Bible and your catechism, and pray.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored and loved, with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world, even until the end of time. Amen.

*Father Roux is rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.*

## The people of life and for life

*Catholics are called on to oppose the culture of death*

During the month of October, we have been praying and working to promote a culture of life throughout our country.

Respect Life Sunday and the entire Respect Life Month remind us to thank God for the gift of life we receive from a loving Creator.

In his 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), Pope John Paul II encouraged us to use all means at our disposal to promote the culture of life, including personal witness, various forms of volunteer work, social activity and political commitment.

Our activity on behalf of life is a particularly pressing need at the present time, the late pope wrote, because "the 'culture of death' so forcefully opposes the 'culture of life' and often seems to have the upper hand" (n. 87).

### Personal witness, volunteer work and social activity

The personal witnesses, volunteer works and social activities to promote the culture of life, of which Pope John Paul wrote, are carried out in many different ways on behalf of the unborn by the faithful of our diocese.

During the course of the year, Catholics in our diocese give personal witness in support of the unborn through participation in Life Chains on the first Sunday of October (Respect Life Sunday), in the annual "40 Days for Life" campaign and in other peaceful prayer vigils at abortion clinics.

Parishes hold baby showers for pregnancy centers, where some parishioners volunteer to work.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats for post-abortion healing are held in our diocese.

Newborn children are provided loving homes through the adoption services of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Many Catholics participate in the great Right to Life marches that take place in January in Charlotte, Raleigh and Washington, D.C.

### Political commitment

The Holy Father also wrote about the need for us to promote a culture of

### From the Bishop

BISHOP  
PETER J. JUGIS  
BISHOP OF  
CHARLOTTE



life through our political commitment. We are expected to act in the political arena to support the right to life of the unborn.

The Catholic bishops of the United States have written about our political responsibility in this area in the document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

Quotes from that document show that ending the grave injustice committed against the innocent unborn by abortion is the preeminent issue of our time.

Not all the issues we may consider in an election year have equal weight. "Some involve matters of intrinsic evil that can never be supported" (n. 90).

"A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia. In our nation 'abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others'" (n. 22).

"The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed" (n. 28).

"As Catholics we are not single issue voters. A candidate's position on single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support.

"Yet a candidate's position on single issue that involves an intrinsic evil such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support" (n. 42).

Catholics can legitimately expect candidates to "address the preeminent requirement to protect the weakest in our midst — innocent unborn children — by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion" (n. 90).

### People of life and for life

Through prayer and personal witness, volunteer work, social activity and political commitment, we continue to promote a culture of life.

Pope John Paul reminded us in his encyclical that "we are the people of life and for life" (n. 78).

Let us always stand on the side of the unborn, the weakest and most defenseless members of our human family, and through all the means available to us defend their right to life.



CNS PHOTO BY TOBY MELVILLE, REUTERS

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to voting

Why Catholics have a moral responsibility to stay politically informed

A staffer from a satellite-based radio program recently interviewed people on the streets of Harlem, N.Y., to see how they are going to vote in the upcoming presidential election.

When he intentionally linked the identity of one candidate with the policies of the opposing candidate, the interviewees didn't bat an eye.

When one man was asked what he cared most about Sen. Barack Obama — whether it was that he was pro-life or that he wanted to keep the troops in Iraq — he responded that he was in favor of Obama's support of keeping the troops in Iraq. He then went on to say that he also agreed with his stance against embryonic stem-cell research.

Not surprisingly, that same interviewee also thought that Obama had chosen Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate.

You don't have to be a political analyst or an evening news junkie to recognize these jarring inaccuracies.

It's baffling to me that anyone could claim to be adamantly in favor of a particular candidate while at the same time be completely unaware of where he

or she stands on key political issues.

Knowing the issues and staying informed is our responsibility and duty as American citizens. Voting in accordance with Catholic social teaching is our moral responsibility as faithful Catholics.

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation," according to the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," a call to responsibility from the U.S. bishops.

As American citizens, we have the right to vote, but with that right also comes responsibility.

In a letter concerning Catholics in political life, Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, stated, "The separation of church and state does not require division between belief and public action, between moral principles and political choices, but protects the right of believers and religious groups to practice their faith and act on their values in public life."

Part of our moral obligation as Catholics is to know where the church

## Some Moore Thoughts

KATIE MOORE  
STAFF WRITER



stands on important political issues. Furthermore, we are obligated to know where the candidates stand in regard to church teachings.

Now more than ever, there are resources available that make it easy for Catholics and all voters to find out where the candidates stand in regard to these teachings.

On a local level, the Catholic bishops in North Carolina conducted a survey of N.C. political candidates relating to Catholic social teaching. To view the survey results, visit [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org). To read the U.S. bishops' document on faithful citizenship, visit [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).

When it comes time to vote on Nov. 4, our decisions as faithful Catholic citizens should stem from thoughtful and careful consideration of where the candidates stand in relation to Catholic teaching. When asked why we are voting for a particular candidate, we should be able to back our choice with solid answers about what that candidate believes — and what we believe.

## Christ's humility shows love is powerful, pope says at audience

### The Pope Speaks

POPE  
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christ's extreme humility and his willingness to die for the sins of all humanity demonstrate that love is far more powerful than pushiness and pretension, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his Oct. 22 general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict spoke about St. Paul's faith in and teaching about Jesus Christ as fully divine. The pope looked particularly at the hymn to Christ in the second chapter of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Pope Benedict said St. Paul's letters speak of Christ as "the firstborn of all creation." Calling Christ the firstborn "implies that he is the first of many children, the first of many brothers and sisters, that he came down to attract us to him and make us his brothers and sisters," the pope said.

Jesus "invites us to participate in his humility and in his love for others and, in that way, to participate also in his glorification as sons and daughters in the son," Pope Benedict said.

Here is the text of the pope's audience remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our continuing catechesis on St. Paul, we now consider the centrality of Jesus Christ in his teaching.

Paul preaches Christ as the crucified and glorified Lord, alive and present within the church. He proclaims Christ's incarnation and exaltation, but also his pre-existence with the Father before all time.

His affirmation of Christ's pre-existence evokes those Old Testament texts, which portray God's wisdom as being with him before creation and coming down to dwell among men (e.g., Pr 8:22-23). Paul thus presents Christ as "the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24), the center and fulfillment of the Father's eternal plan of salvation.

The hymn found in his Letter to the Philippians (Phil 2:6-11) contrasts Christ's pre-existence "in the form of God" and his subsequent "kenosis" or self-emptying, "even to death, death on a Cross." Paul also appeals to Christ's pre-existence and incarnation in proclaiming Jesus as "the one mediator between God and man" (1 Tim 3:16), the firstborn of all creation and the head of the church (cf. Col 1:15-20).

Paul's "sapiential" christology invites us to welcome the salvation offered by the crucified and risen Lord, the Eternal Son, who is the very wisdom and power of God.

## Peace of mind in turbulent times

Making yours a Christian estate plan

As you try to make some sense of these turbulent financial times and look to the years ahead, it can be prudent to review your overall estate plan.

First, you will surely want to remember your family and others who depend on you for financial support. When you are assured that these people are cared for as fully as possible, your thoughts go to others — friends, associates, other relatives. You also may wish to remember the church with a gift to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation.

But how can you accomplish all of this? All of us feel that there is a limit to our resources and recent times have increased this feeling.

It's important to review your estate plan as a whole. Remembering your loved ones and other interests call for various methods of distribution: life insurance, retirement plans, trusts and a will, to name a few. You can use all of these and more to remember those who are important to you.

Once loved ones are cared for, consider including the church. Your parish, a favorite agency, Catholic school, the diocese or the diocesan foundation can be included in your will and other estate plans while not

detracting at all from the plans you make for your family.

Here are some ideas:

— A "last-in-line" bequest: When you make or revise your will, you and your attorney can make sure that your spouse, children, grandchildren, parents or others are provided for as you wish.

After that, you can include a charitable bequest of the "residue" (what remains after other bequests are satisfied).

— A gift of "what's left" in a trust: If you have a living trust to distribute your property, you can include a gift of what remains after loved ones have been cared for.

Similar to a residual bequest, such a gift allows you to make a large gift while fully providing for others.

— A gift from life insurance or retirement plan proceeds: Just as you can name your parish, favorite Catholic agency, Catholic school, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan foundation in your will or trust, you can add that name to receive part or all of your life insurance or retirement plan proceeds after individuals you name have received their portions, or if they do not survive you.

Anyone with any amount of property can include a gift as outlined above, creating a lasting testimonial to one's

## Legacy Notes

JUDY SMITH  
GUEST COLUMNIST



faith and further living out the life of stewardship. These ideas also help you take care of obligations to your family and loved ones and create peace of mind even during difficult financial times.

In addition, all those age 70 and 1/2 or older should know that Congress has just extended the IRA (Individual Retirement Account) Charitable Rollover, an excellent charitable estate planning opportunity for both 2008 and 2009.

This act allows an IRA owner age 70 and 1/2 or older to make a direct transfer of distributions to charitable organizations and avoid the tax on these distributions. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and this IRA rollover will exist for years 2008 and 2009.

By knowing your priorities and drafting your estate plan responsibly, you can take care of your loved ones and leave a legacy gift to the church without slighting either.

Judy Smith is planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or [jmsmith@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jmsmith@charlottediocese.org).





CNS PHOTO BY BRENDAN McDERMID, REUTERS

A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Oct. 6. With the dramatic downturn of the U.S. economy, scholars and clergy are revisiting the U.S. bishops' 1986 pastoral letter promoting an economic policy that reins in unbridled consumerism and a lust for material riches, and advocates the theology of sharing the wealth.

## 'Economic Justice for All'

1986 economic pastoral letter revisited as world faces financial meltdown

BY CHAZ MUTH  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As U.S. residents struggle to make sense of the dramatic downturn in the economy, scholars and clergy are revisiting a 22-year-old pastoral letter written by the U.S. Catholic bishops promoting an economic policy that reins in unbridled consumerism and a lust for material riches, and advocates the theology of sharing the wealth.

When the U.S. bishops released their 1986 pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All," the authors were addressing out-of-control spending by governments, national debt for Third World countries and rampant investing with little regard for social values, said Msgr. Stuart Swetland, 49, vice president for Catholic identity and mission at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmittsburg, Md.

"The basic principles of that letter are very valid, and if they had been listened to more, we wouldn't be in the economic crisis we are in today," Msgr. Swetland said. "Is it fair to be consuming so much when there is so much poverty around the world?"

"Everyone should look at the resources entrusted to our care and see how we can all be the best stewards of our resources and how they can be best used and serve the community as a whole," the priest said.

The pastoral letter suggests three questions that should be asked when forming an economic policy: What does it do for people? What does it do to people? What does it do to the least well-off?

A Catholic theologian, an economist and two Catholic bishops told Catholic News Service they believe the basic principles of "Economic Justice for All" call for government to ensure that economic policy safeguards the markets from excessive greed and great disparity of wealth among the people, and treats individuals in the labor pool with dignity, not just as profit-making tools.

All those interviewed agreed that unchecked self-indulgence was a key ingredient in the current economic crisis.

The late Pope John Paul II said Catholic tradition calls for a "society of work, enterprise and participation" that "is not directed against the market, but demands that the market be appropriately controlled by the forces of society, and by the state, to assure that the basic needs of the whole society are satisfied."

He also said all economic life should recognize that we are all God's children and members of one family, called to exercise a clear priority for "the least among us."

"We have too many bad stewards of God's gifts," said Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro, Ky.

"Too many people are starving. One thing that was not emphasized in the document that is really essential for any economic system is being a good steward and that no one really owns anything, but God," he said.

"It's not that God hasn't given enough to go around, but that too many

people are greedy and keeping more than their fair share," Bishop McRaith said.

Though the basic principles "Economic Justice for All" are sound, the document itself is antiquated and should be updated, or scrapped and replaced with a modernized pastoral, said Andre Abela, associate professor of marketing at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"I think it needs to be retired and replaced with something else," Abela told CNS.

"We didn't even have NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) then and think about the issues with immigration today. Think of the Internet and all that entails and how it's become structured into our economy, and social justice for that matter," he said.

"We should have a document that takes all of that into account," he added.

Since the core values in the document are still relevant, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City said that updating the pastoral may be an appropriate course of action.

"I do think that the economic pastoral has guidelines that allow us to look at what happened in this financial crisis and learn from it," Bishop Wester said.

"There are so many people who are suffering from this crisis, especially people whose 401(k) has been wiped out and those who are now at risk of losing their homes," he said. "If we update the pastoral, we need to examine how to prevent this from happening again."

Any new document should emphasize that the economy exists for the people and should provide each human with dignity, he said. "We forgot about that. The economy started to exist for profit only."

The disparity of compensation has spun out of control in the 22 years since "Economic Justice for All" was drafted and a new document would have to address that issue in the context of the global economy, Bishop McRaith said.

"In the early '80s the average American CEO was making about 100 times more than the average worker," Msgr. Swetland said. "That at the time seemed to be reasonable, given the level of responsibility."

"That number rose to 80 times in a decade, and by 2003 the average American CEO was earning up to 500 times the average worker," he said. "When you see the top economic earners breaking away so far, something is gone askew."

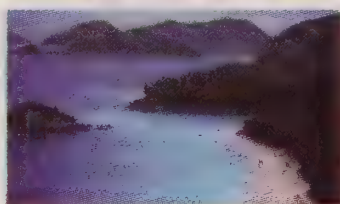
Since the credit markets froze and Wall Street became unstable in September, the focus has been on struggling homeowners and the middle class, yet little thought has been given to the desperately poor, Bishop McRaith said.

"I think we all have to look at ourselves and see all of the stuff that we have and ask do we need all of that stuff? The answer is no, I don't," he said.

"If everyone does that then we move off to a new world. I don't mind saying I have a long way to go to achieve that goal, but that is what the Lord is calling on us to do," he said.

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